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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's plan to redefine public service and "reduce" government?

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INSIDE



Capsized Boat

Days after it capsized behind the Tanapag Pavilion, a yacht owned by Mariana Resort & Spa was finally pulled ashore.

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Back in Power

Claiming power beneath the Capitol dome, resurgent Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

Nation...Page 22



Sober Lindsay

Lindsay Lohan's attorney insists the 24-year-old actress didn't drink alcohol or do drugs during her 90day stint at the Betty Ford rehabilitation center

Life & Style...Page 28

Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), left, swears in CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, as Sablan's wife, Andrea, holds up the Bible, during the ceremonial swearing in held at the Rayburn Room of the Capitol.

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

ASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan was sworn in yesterday for a second term in **RELATED NEWS**

the U.S. House of Kilili re-introduces bills Representatives and his first official act as a member of the 112th Congress

came in the form of a challenge to the Republican majority to live up to its pledge of participative democracy by not taking away his right to vote in the committee of the whole.

See DELEGATES on Page 4

on submerged lands,

Inos fellowship. **PAGE 2**

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

WASHINGTON, Weather Channel predicted nearfreezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky.

In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, the frosty silence emanating from the Republican side of the House was enough to cause icicles to form on the ceiling. The GOP, after all, campaigned—and won—on a platform to undo most of what the Democratled 111th Congress accomplished.

Pelosi's farewell speech was punctuated by applause some 19 times but the clapping was only unanimous on both sides of the aisle about four times: when she thanked her colleagues for making her the first woman speaker (the fourth applause), when she acknowledged Boehner's family, when she said that Boehner has earned everyone's respect, and when she officially handed over an

See NOTEBOOK on Page 4

Kilili: It's going to be tough

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan entertains no illusions that his second term, which he won handily in November, would be easier the second time around. In fact, it could prove harder than his initial term when he and his colleagues in the Democrat Party called the shots in the 111th Congress.

With a resurgent Republican Par-

ty taking over the reins of the U.S. House of Representatives beginning yesterday, Sablan will have to turn on the charm and call on his vast reserves of persuasion in order to reach out to his colleagues on the other side of the aisle, just so he could keep his legislative agenda on track.

"It's going to be tough," he con-

One of the things that Sablan enbership in House committees, which

See KILILI on Page 4

'Up to 4,000 jobless residents.' PAGE 3 One of 3 defendants in MHS murder case gets 26 years in jail. PAGE 5







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Local





CONRIBUTED PHOTO

Walter Villagomez, Will "Kwek" Lizama, Francisco I. Taitano, Patricia Sablan, Andrea Sablan, Sabia Calvo, Vicky Calvo, Gerald Calvo, Ramon Dela Cruz and Angie Borja were among the many constituents, friends,

and family members who joined Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday for the first day of the 112th United States Congress.

Kilili re-introduces bills on submerged lands and lnos fellowship

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.cor EDITOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As one of his first acts in the 112th Congress, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan introduced yesterday the submerged lands bill and the proposed Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Act—two measures that failed to make it when he first offered them in the 111th Congress.

In preparation for this, Sablan said that he had already written to the incoming House leadership to ask them to reserve bill numbers 670 for the submerged lands measure and 512 for his proposed Dr. Inos Fellowship.

"The number 512 has some significance because [Dr. Inos] was born on May 12," said Sablan. "We're going to continue to push for that [bill]."

Inos served as the CNMI education commissioner from 1998 to 2005. She passed away on Aug. 10, 2009, of cancer.

The other number, 670, is telephone area code for the Commonwealth "and we're re-

served that for our submerged lands bill," Sablan said.

He said he did this to add a measure of significance, some symbol, to the legislation that he introduced.

The Dr. Rita Inos Fellowship Act, which Sablan initially introduced during his first term in the 111th Congress, wants to give CNMI students a paid internship with a local or federal agency in order for them to gain understanding of how the government works and to become more civically engaged. The Office of Insular Affairs had opposed it, citing five reasons that included duplication of existing programs and lack of funds to finance it.

The submerged lands bill, on the other hand, seeks to convey the submerged lands around each of the Northern Marianas islands back to the people of the islands. It was the first bill Sablan introduced during his first term and it met with more success but still failed to make it into law. The last action on the

Camacho now state liaison of Federal Disability Office

Office of Disability Policy & Programs special assistant Thomas J. Camacho is now the official state liaison for the U.S. Social Security Administration Federal Disability Office.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos authorized Camacho in a memorandum dated Nov. 23, 2010.

Camacho is tasked to coordinate future stakeholder meetings, follow up medical evidence requests from the Commonwealth Health Center, and coordinate psycho-educational evaluation assistance.

Camacho said there have been a number of complaints

filed by people with disabilities at the Federal Disability Office regarding the slow processing of Social Security income and supplemental income.

According to Camacho, the delegation of authority to him would help streamline the process by identifying the problems in order to better serve people with disabilities.

Camacho said his office will provide assistance to people with disabilities by facilitating consultative examinations which will be paid for by the Social Security Administration. (Clarissa V. David)



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'Up to 4,000 jobless residents'

- » Lawmakers work with Labor in filling up most 5,663 alien jobs with residents in 2011
- >> 60% drop in employers posting JVAs with Labor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

At least 5,663 work contracts currently held by foreign workers will expire between January and November 2011, and many of these positions "might be available" to "3,000 to 4,000" unemployed residents, Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said after he and other lawmakers met with Department of Labor officials yesterday afternoon.

Deleon Guerrero is also chair of the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee.

He said while there's an estimated 15,000 foreign workers in the CNMI, many of them have contracts expiring in 2012 so their positions are not included in Labor's January 2011

Moreover, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said last week there are almost 2,000 unemployed foreign workers who would have been deported under CNMI immigra-

Among those in the closedoor meeting were Deleon Guerrero, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Labor deputy secretary Cinta Kaipat, acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar, Commerce's Ivan Blanco and Joe Kiyoshi, and three others from Labor.

Palacios, a committee member, said the 3,000 to 4,000 unemployed residents is a preliminary figure, based on the number of food stamp recipients without jobs.

Deleon Guerrero and Palacios said the end goal is to be able to help the up to 4,000 jobless residents find a job in the private sector, particularly the foreign worker-held positions with contracts that are expiring this year.

But the committee chairman said Labor's list of job categories include highly specialized jobs that could be impossible if not difficult to be filled with resident workers, including those

for physicians, nurses, dentists, and translators.

Labor's Kaipat also gave lawmakers a 16-page list of all the foreign worker-held positions with contracts expiring this year, including their salaries and expiration date.

The list cites, for example, a foreign accountant earning \$24,000 a year and whose contract expires on Sunday, or a staff nurse earning \$33,345.52 a year with a contract expiring on May 1, or an assistant general manager earning \$44,400 a year and with a contract ending on Jan. 14.

Deleon Guerrero and Palacios said there will be more meetings with Labor to tackle the need to help residents find private sector jobs especially during these tough financial times, and because the Fitial administration is planning to reduce government.

Conner, for his part, said it's good that steps are being taken

See JOBLESS on Next Page

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Guam Shipyard: Fuel transfer begins from 'Big Blue'

APRA HARBOR, Guam—As Thursday afternoon after testing fuel transfer lines, the Coast Guard has reviewed the fuel transfer plan, allowing Guam Shipyard to transfer diesel fuel from "Big Blue" to a fuel tank aboard the tug boat Marianas Voyager.

The process began at the rate of 480 gallons per hour being transferred from the generator fuel tank located in a machinery space on "Big Blue." This is a crucial step in the recovery process of "Big Blue," as this tank is the largest source of fuel known to be on the drydock at this time. Pumping

will end this evening at sunset for safety reasons and resume tomorrow morning at first light. Once the tank has been emptied, further dewatering will take place, giving Guam Shipyard the ability to reach the last remaining tanks on the drydock.

To further assist with the response, the Coast Guard has brought in a member from the District 14 Honolulu District Response Advisory Team (DRAT), and three members of the Pacific Strike Team, a Deployable Operations Group (DOG), to assist Guam Shipyard with establishing recovery goals and bringing forward the necessary expertise to ensure "Big Blue" is safely raised out of the water once all fuel and oil are removed. After surveying the drydock, Pacific Strike Team member Chief Boatswain's Mate Benjamin Gamad said, "All agencies are working well together to reach a solution and mitigate any potential environmental impacts."

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam urges all commercial and recreational boating traffic to remain vigilant while transiting near "Big Blue." To report any debris or signs of oil in the water call the Sector Guam Command Center

at 671-564-USCG. (PR)

train residents for jobs filled by foreign Labor data shows that of the 5,663 jobs whose contracts will expire this

year, 1,618 will need "little or no preparation," while 1,051 will need "some preparations," and 1,989 need "medium preparation." From Page 1

The other 933 jobs need "considerable preparation," while 72 need "extensive preparation."

Of the 5,663 job contracts expiring, 5,350 are on Saipan, 233 on Tinian, and 80 on Rota.

Of these jobs, 726 will expire in January, 667 in February, and so forth.

Lawmakers interviewed yesterday also said the number of employers complying with the CNMI Department of Labor's job vacancy announcement requirement has significantly dropped by 60 percent—or from 15,000 in 2009 to only 6,000 in 2010.

"I think it has also something to do with Ombudsman Pamela Brown telling employers not to go to the CNMI Labor anymore," Palacios said.

NOTEBOOK

From Page 1

outsized gavel to him.

Boehner himself got about six applause during his speech, but the roar that greeted the announcement of his ascent to the speakership, the applause that turned into a standing ovation as he was walking down the center aisle to the rostrum, and the final roar as he took the gavel from Pelosi more than made up for the lukewarm claps he got from the right side of the chamber.

The seating arrangement inside the House of Representatives is not necessarily based on ideologies or parties but it might as well have been during yesterday's occasion. Nowhere was this more obvious than during the roll call for the vote on who was going to be the next House speaker. There were two main nominees: Boehner and Pelosi, plus about seven call-in nominations. Members on the right side of the chamber mostly voted for Pelosi, while those on the left side went for Boehner. The final tally: Boehner, 241; Pelosi, 173.

Nope, the delegates (of the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia)

and the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico don't get to vote for the speaker. They have a friend, however, in Rep. Michael M. Honda (D-Calif.) who, before voting for Pelosi, gave a statement questioning why the delegates are not allowed to cast a vote.

The opening session did not start at noon on the dot. Outgoing House Clerk Lorraine Miller only called the

chamber to order when the number of lawmakers present has already reached 434. The U.S. House of Representatives has a total of 441 members, including the delegates.

While waiting for the call to order, lawmakers were busy greeting old colleagues and welcoming new ones. U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen was busy with her Blackberry when CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan goes over to greet her. Guam's Madeleine Bordallo chats up American Samoa's Eni Faleomavaega.

When Miller delivered the quorum count, she specifically cited the names of the six delegates. The rest of the House members were not named.

Except for the official House photographers, cameras were not allowed inside the chamber. For the media, only those who are credentialed photographers and videographers were allowed to bring in their equipment. Print media was only allowed to bring in a pen and paper. So the ability to write fast is a plus. Also, the media gallery is located right above and behind the speaker's podium, so it has a full-on view of the chamber. Lawmakers facing the speaker's podium only need look up to see the media.

Sablan said he was allowed to bring in only one family member inside the chamber. He brought along his wife, Andrea. During his first term, he was allowed two, so he had with him Andrea and their daughter Patricia. It wasn't so with more senior members, who practically brought their entire families to the occasion.

Which brings up a point: There were too many children inside the chamber. At one point, as Boehner was giving his speech, an infant could be heard crying. One boy, the grandchild of a lawmaker, kept lying on the carpet right next to the speaker's podium, much to the amusement of Bordallo and Honda, who were seated side beside each other in the front.

Sablan, dressed in a dark suit, a burgundy tie, and a lapel pin, was seated on the right side of the chamber, in the last row, together with Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and near Faleomavaega. His wife, Andrea, was seated directly above him in the upper gallery. At one point, he waved at her to catch her attention.

As part of the procedures for his swearing in, Sablan signed three separate documents—all of them oaths just before he went to the Capitol building for the swearing in. Two are for his oath of office, while the third one is for access to classified information, which binds him to an oath of nondisclosure. "We sign them and turn them in after our swearing in," he said.

After a procession down the center aisle, interrupted by handshakes and air kisses, Boehner was sworn in by Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), the longestserving House lawmaker. Boehner then administered the oath of office to all 441 members and delegates en masse. Hours later, another ceremonial swearing in was held for each member at the Rayburn Room of the Capitol. Each representative poses with Boehner and pretends to take an oath for the cameras.

both houses and whichever moves first moves first."

As for critics who downplay Sablan's ability to get his agenda moving due to his non-voting status, he only has this to say: "Well, they've seen some of the things we've done in two years. That's the campaign I ran: what we've done in our first two years that I was here."

At the same time, one cannot diminish the access to classified information that Sablan has as a member of Congress. "Nobody else in the Commonwealth has access to that information except me. Or when you go to a meeting for Members only and they discuss different things."

He was quick to assure, though, that he is not one to abuse that privilege. Rather, he prizes the personal relationships and the network he establishes in his role as the Northern Marianas representative.

"One of the last things I did before I went home for Christmas was call people up and thank them for what they do for us. I make time for those things because when you need something from them, they're there."

DELEGATES

JOBLESS

to help residents get jobs.

The committee chair said Labor has

been referring residents to enroll at the

Northern Marianas Trade Institute to

learn or develop skills to be able to fill

jobs currently held by foreign workers.

Lawmakers said there is urgency to

From Page 3

Sablan also introduced two pet measures-the submerged lands bill and the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Act—that didn't make it during his first term in the 111th Congress.

Soon after their noontime swearing in, the House leadership under Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio) moved to adopt new House rules that, among other changes, would strip away the right of representatives of U.S. territories and the District of Columbia from voting whenever the House acts as a committee of the whole.

Sablan and the delegates of the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico, took turns pressing their case to be allowed to keep that right, as it is the only time they—as non-voting representatives—actually get to cast a vote.

District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton wanted to refer the issue to the Rules Committee; the Republican leadership objected.

"So we got up and registered our objection," Sablan said.

"We" included Norton, Guam's Madeleine Bordallo, American Samoa's Eni Faleomavaega, U.S. Virgin Islands' Donna Christensen, and Puerto Rico's resident commissioner Pedro Pierluisi. Remarkably, all of them are Democrats or identified with that party, like Sablan.

In a prepared statement he delivered on the floor, Sablan emphasized that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands are citizens of the United States, subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Constitution.

"Today, the majority rules exclude us from even symbolic representation in our government. The majority's pledge to America declared that the majority would fight those who whisper America's standing as the world leader of democracy is ending. But today, that same majority breaks its own pledge with rules that take away the vote from five million Americans in the territories and this is a sad way to begin this Congress," he said.

House Minority Whip Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) also spoke out against the new rules, pointing out that listening to people was a constant refrain during the last campaign season.

"We have almost 5 million people [in the territories] who are American citizens. How do we listen to them? We listen to them when their representatives put their green or red on the board," he said.

Despite the certain passage of the rules in yesterday's session, Hoyer said he will introduce today a standalone resolution to amend the rules and reinstate the delegates' vote in the committee of the whole.

"I'm going to be introducing an amendment to the rules that...will return this symbol of respect, this symbol of inclusion, this symbol of colleagueship, if you will, to our six representatives of American citizens," Hoyer

Sablan is also not conceding defeat just yet. "This is not over," he said.

He pointed out that the Republicans brought the issue to court in the early '90s and lost, with the Appellate Division ruling that it is not unconstitutional and that the delegates may have that privilege to vote in the committee of the whole.

"Norton was quoted in headlines today that voters from her district are Americans who pay taxes, so they can't use it against us, that we don't pay taxes," he added.

Under the previous House Rules, when the House acts as a committee of the whole, all representatives, including delegates, are considered committee members. That gives delegates the power to vote on amendments but not the final passage of the bill. This "symbolic" right to vote largely depends on who is running the House, with Democrats granting delegates that right in 1993 and 2007 and the Republicans taking it away each time they come to power.

Other priorities

Sablan pointed out, though, that the rules are not the be-all and end-all of his agenda. "My priorities are also outside the rules." That includes bringing as much federal assistance to the Northern Marianas as he can.

"This [rules change] is not something that will remove my attention from other issues. I won't take this personally," he said.

Sablan said he and the other delegates and their supporters will continue to push the voting issue but it is not something that is way in front for

"There's other things here that's important. This doesn't deliver the bacon," he said.

BILLS

From Page 2

bill was in May 2010, when the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved it without amendment. It was ready for action by the full Senate but that never happened, falling victim to the election campaign season. The U.S. House of Representatives had already unanimously passed the bill in July 2009.

KILILI

From Page 1

usually determine the fate of proposed bills. As then a member of the majority, he was with the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Natural Resources.

The 112th Congress is, however, a different matter. Membership to committees is decided by the Steering and Policy Committee based on seniority and, with Republicans getting first dibs on these powerful panels, Sablan could only express his interest for a seat. Which he already did but, at this point, he is not that optimistic.

"I'd like to stay on in Ed[ucation] and Labor but it looks like it's not possible because they reduced the number of members," he said. This is the same committee that in 2010 put off the next minimum wage increase in the Commonwealth by a year until a study on the impact of the wage hikes is done.

Sablan is also eyeing a seat in the

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee "but I know that the Republicans, from what I understand, they're going to reduce a huge amount of money, they're going to refrain from funding so many projects, so we'll see."

The Committee on Agriculture is also another prospect "because I need to push for this food stamp issue but the thing is the work is also up to our government as much as it is here."

He feels confident, though, that he will remain on the powerful Natural Resources Committee. "I'm fairly senior in Natural Resources...so I'm in there, which is very necessary and important for us."

As for the bills that he plans to introduce in the 112th Congress, Sablan said there are many options he can explore to make sure that these measures move on the House floor.

"One of the things that we do is introduce a bill and then, if you see a moving legislation, they attach it to that one. One of things that I also plan to do is to ask for a companion legislation in the Senate. So we introduce the bill in

of 3 defendants in MHS murder case gets 26 yrs in jail

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

One of the three defendants in the murder case of Marianas High School security guard in November 2008 was sentenced to 26 years in jail yesterday by Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja.

Eric Rabauliman, 20, was charged with first-degree murder, burglary, conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon and burglary, theft, and assault with a dangerous weapon in connection to the murder of 45-year-old Efren Ballesteros on Nov. 18, 2008.

The two other defendants— Edward Blas and Randy Igisomar—have yet been sentenced

In January last year, 20-yearold Rabauliman pleaded guilty of first degree murder.

Judge Naraja handed down the 26-year jail term with the possibility of parole after serving one-third of the sentence. Rabauliman was detained for two years and these were counted on the 26-year sentence.

But for the common-law wife and children of the murdered security guard, the 26-year imprisonment is not enough for the justice they seek.

However, 44-year-old Adelaida Abella described yesterday's sentencing as "progress" in the process.

Since her common-law husband died, Abella admitted it has been very difficult for the family to cope. They have two children and their eldest is a 15-year-old student at Marianas High School. The youngest is just 2 years old.

"It's been very difficult for all of us...especially for my eldest son to completely cope with the situation especially that he's coming everyday to the campus where his father died. But with today's court decision, we're looking forward that the two other defendants will also be sentenced soon," Abella told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

If not granted parole, Rabauli- Blas were both 16. man will be 44 years old when he is released 26 years from now.

He reportedly addressed the court yesterday, after the sentencing that he "regret" what he did and will apologize to the victim's family.

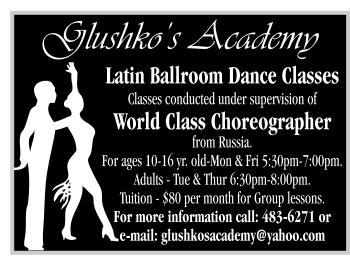
Also in attendance in yesterday's hearing were defense lawyers, attorneys Lilian Tenorio and Robert Torres, and assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher, the main prosecutor in the case. Relatives of the defendant were also in the venue.

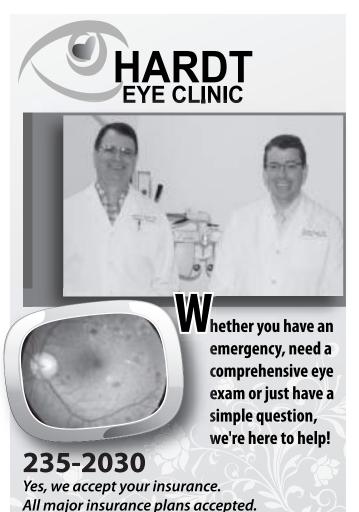
The three defendants are accused of killing Ballesteros on or about Nov. 17 or 18, 2008.

When the incident happened, the suspects were students at MHS. Rabauliman was 18, while Igisomar and

Ballesteros was found dead at the MHS campus where he was assigned as a security guard. His wallet containing \$300 cash was reportedly stolen, along with his

Several classrooms were burglarized and some laptops and money were stolen. The school was closed for two days as a result of the tragedy.









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Fund wary bill grants as many as 20K individuals right to sue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund told lawmakers that Senate Bill 17-43, Senate Draft 1 is not only unnecessary but is also extremely detrimental to the interests of the pension system, its members and CNMI citizens.

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Fund opposes, seeks to expand that right to "any intended benshareholder derivative actions to trust and retirement fund programs so that beneficiaries can maintain lawsuits when trustees refuse to do so.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said the bill takes the right to sue on behalf of the Fund, currently provided only to the board of trustees, and grants

eficiary" of the Fund.

As the Fund has some 6,000 members and any potential surviving spouse and child could be an intended beneficiary, as well as the individuals listed as beneficiaries for the \$1,000 lump-sum death benefit, the number of intended beneficiaries of the Fund could be 18,000

to 20,000 individuals, he said.

Villagomez said the bill would allow any of these individuals to sue anyone they believe has "injured" the Fund, regardless of whether they themselves have been injured by such actions.

"It basically opens up the floodgates to litigation and the Fund—and likely the Attorney General's Office-will be forced to hire a significant number of lawyers to manage this potentially huge number of cases," Villagomez said in a Jan. 4 letter to House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) and House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Rafael De-

Villagomez said SB 17-43, SD1 also causes upheaval of the legal framework for contracts and trusts, rewrites the Rules of Civil Procedure, and causes uneven retroactive application.

In his five-page letter to Basa and Demapan, Villagomez cited four types of possible lawsuits that the bill would allow.

"The bill is so broadly drafted that it exceeds the separation of powers doctrine and encroaches into matters properly within the iurisdiction of the CNMI Judicial Branch by re-writing the Rules of Civil Procedure, which are within the court's jurisdiction and not the Legislature's," Villagomez added.

He also said that some of the more troubling aspects of the bill become understandable when considered in the context of the ongoing litigation in which a few retirees have sued the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees and the board's prior investment advisor, Merrill Lynch, for alleged wrongful acts and negligence, causing losses to the Fund.

"The law and procedure are already in place for this litigation to proceed, it is not necessary, nor desirable, for the CNMI to rewrite hundreds of years of contracts law, trusts law, and civil procedure in order to affect the outcome of this one particular case," Villagomez added.



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IN TODAY'S MEETING WITH FITIAL, INOS Lawmakers will have a chance to be heard

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Lawmakers will have a chance to be heard when they attend a meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos today, press secretary Angel De-

mapan said.

www.iconnectsaipan.com

Demapan said the Fitial administration is aware of some lawmakers' concerns that they might not be able to voice out their concerns or share their proposals on how to improve the economy.

"Lawmakers will have a chance to be heard and the governor and lieutenant governor also hope lawmakers will hear them out," Demapan said.

Fitial and Inos invited the 20 House members and nine Senate members to a close-door meeting at the World Resort Saipan at 11:30am today.

But House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) may not be able to attend. He and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) have been at odds over a lot of issues, making it impossible to pass pieces of legislation that seek to grow the local economy.

"We hope that everyone else would make it," the press secretary said.

Fitial and Inos will be providing free lunch to lawmakers. As of yesterday afternoon, reporters were not invited to cover the

While the close-door meeting agenda has yet to be provided as of yesterday afternoon, Demapan said revitalizing the economy will be in it.

He said tourism as the main driver of the economy remains a priority. He said because of technical concerns, the Fitial administration has yet to reprogram funds for the Marianas Visitors Authority's proposed \$6.2 million airline incentive program.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said the minority bloc is looking forward to the meeting which they hope will not only improve the sometimes strained relations among elected leaders but will also help revitalize the economy.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) said they would also be attending, along with other lawmakers.

The full leadership meeting sees the need to come together especially with a government deficit that is already estimated at \$6 million in the first three months of Fiscal Year 2011 alone, continuous payless paydays and a 16hour pay cut per payday.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 **7**



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Capsized boat pulled ashore

» All 3 passengers unharmed

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa_david@saipantribune.com

Days after it capsized behind the Tanapag Pavilion, a yacht owned by Mariana Resort & Spa was finally pulled ashore behind the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plant in Lower Base yesterday afternoon.

About 20 members of the rescue team composed of representatives from Mariana Resort & Spa, the U.S. Coast Guard, Division of Fish & Wildlife, Emergency Management Office, Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Division, Division of Environmental Quality, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Seafix, and Gresco worked together to retrieve the boat.

Mariana Resort & Spa general manager Gloria Cruz Cavanagh said a male resort employee and his two friends were onboard the 30-foot, 3.1-ton

Yamaha boat to go fishing at 7:30am on Monday.

However, she declined to identify the names of the passengers.

"They went fishing for four hours and got hit by what we believe were four consecutive waves," Cavanagh told *Saipan* *Tribune* yesterday at the site.

But Cavanagh noted that the employee who served as the boat operator only remembered two waves that hit them since the boat already capsized after the second wave.

Cavanagh disclosed that the two passengers were thrown

waves, Cavanagh told Salpan two passengers were thrown

CLARISSA V. DAVID

A man ties the Yamaha boat to the crane for lifting as two members of the Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Division look on.

boat through the broken glass window.

At about 11:30am, Cavanagh the said all three passengers were

At about 11:30am, Cavanagh said all three passengers were rescued by Fish and Wildlife staff around the area where the boat capsized.

out of the boat while the boat operator escaped from the

"They were immediately taken to the hospital and were released later within the day," she confirmed.

While it was easy for the team to rescue the passengers, Cavanagh said it wasn't the same in the boat's case.

"We always knew where it was but the waves took it over inside the reef. The boat got lodged in the rocks," she said.

According to Cavanagh, the rescue team did not attempt to recover the boat Monday afternoon and Tuesday because the currents were too strong. On Wednesday, the team was able to dislodge the boat out of the rocks, she said.

"[Thursday] morning, there was a new plan of attack. We were lucky because the seas were calmer. Instead of bringing it north against the current, we moved it south," she explained.

Aside from ensuring the safety of the passengers, Cavanagh said another major concern for them is to limit any pollution and coral damage that the capsized boat might have caused.

"Since the beginning, our company hired Gresco and Seafix to deal with any pollutants and minimize any damage," she said.

Lito Parulan, Mariana Resort & Spa golf course operations manager and rescue coordinator, said the boat had to be dewatered before it was lifted by a crane machine since water has doubled the weight of the boat.

Cavanagh and Parulan expressed their appreciation to all federal and local agencies that helped during the entire boat rescue operation.





Jan. 7, 1999

Homestead lot inappropriately granted: OPA

The Public Auditor yesterday reported that 1.08 hectares of agricultural homestead lot was inappropriately granted to a homesteader because a hearing committee failed to hear the case in accordance with the homestead laws and regulations. The audit showed that the Division of Public Lands, through another Homestead Review Committee, reviewed and rendered a decision on an agricultural homestead case which was already decided and closed seven years earlier by the first Homestead Review Committee of the former Marianas Public Land Corporation (MPLC). Its decision reversed the first Homestead Committee's decision in favor of the homesteaders. DPL acted beyond its jurisdiction, as a result, DPL's Homestead Review Committee violated the HWA regulations.

MVA seeks community support on `99 promo

The Marianas Visitors Authority yesterday appealed for support from the community to make the '99 Visit the Marianas Year Campaign a success as tourist arrivals in the CNMI continue to decline as a result of the economic crisis besetting Asia. "We will continue to actively promote overseas but we must ask that the community extend extra efforts to make our visitors feel welcome. This could be something as simple as extending a smile or a wave—or competing in a friendly sporting event alongside a visitor—but whatever we do, let's show our visitors genuine local hospitality to make their stay more comfortable and memorable," said Perry J. Tenorio, managing director of MVA. Arrivals from Japan alone, the island's main source of tourist, have plunged as the world's second largest economy is battling its worst recession since World War II.

Jan. 7, 2000

House tightens rules on garment exports

After nearly sitting for six months in the House of Representatives, a bill aimed at enforcing labor and safety laws in the garment industry was passed yesterday by 13 members present during its final session before adjourning sine die for the next Legislature. Senate Bill 11-125, offered by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, will empower the Division of Customs to deny issuance of certificate for country of origin on finished apparel from factories found in violation of the laws and the code of conduct of Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association. This certification is required by the U.S. Customs before apparel merchandise manufactured in the Northern Marianas can be shipped to the mainland.

SPC selects first woman to head regional group

Government representatives of the Pacific Conference have unanimously selected Lourdes Pangelinan, the first woman to lead the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Ms. Pangelinan succeeds outgoing Dr. Bob Dun, who has been holding the post of director-general of the regional organization for four years. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Pangelinan worked in the executive branch of Guam as chief of staff for eight years. She also worked in management positions in the U.S. territory's Legislature as well as in the judiciary. Members of the Pacific community described her selection as an "achievement for all the women in the region."

Jan. 7, 2002

Rota youths tackle social problems

Teen pregnancy. Drugs. Violence. Ineffective education. These may seem like a laundry list of issues that children should stay away from but the youths on Rota got down and dirty last Friday in a free-wheeling session with members of the 4th Youth Congress. Talking about issues that mattered to them and problems that confront them everyday, a sizable number of Rota High School students vented it all out in a forum with eight senators of the 4th Youth Congress, as a means to guide the senators in crafting legislation that would benefit the CNMI's youths. "The students of Rota High were a very intelligent bunch and their questions during the forum were all well thought-out. We gained a lot of perspective from them and talked about a number of issues that concerns them most," said Speaker Luis John Castro.

DOLI lifts hiring ban on local firm

A company may now employ nonresident workers again, after the Department of Labor and Immigration found out that it has fully satisfied its obligations in connection with a labor case decision almost two years ago. In an administrative order, hearing officer Vicente C. Seman lifted the ban on Arirang Enterprises, Inc. to hire nonresident workers in the Commonwealth, one of the penalties it suffered in an earlier administrative order on a labor case filed by seven Chinese workers.



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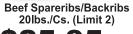


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10 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A weapon against drug cartels

exico has some of the strictest gun laws in the hemisphere. Citizens are permitted to buy low-caliber firearms for self-protection or hunting, but only after a background check and approval by the defense ministry; they must also purchase the guns directly from the ministry. The goal of this parsimonious approach to allotting firearms is a society free from gun violence. Unfortunately for Mexico, however, its weapons management strategy is sabotaged by an accident of location—its residence next door to the gun capital of the world.

The United States is awash in guns. Americans own an estimated 283 million guns, and 4.5 million new ones, including 2 million handguns, are sold each year, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Nor are these weapons confined to U.S. borders and households. Officials say that they are pouring south into Mexico, into the hands of violent drug cartels.

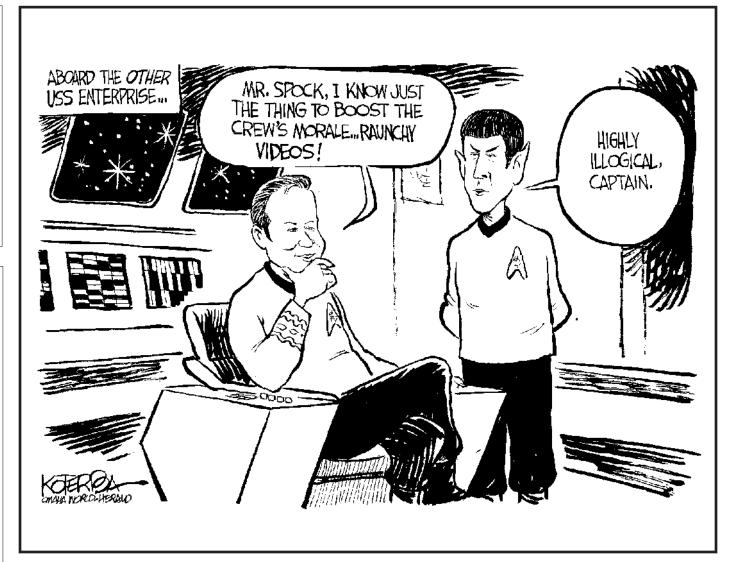
As part of its effort to halt the flow, the ATF has asked the White House for emergency authority to require gun dealers near the border in four states—California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas—to report multiple purchases of high-powered rifles. Specifically, the agency wants 8,500 retailers to report any sales of two or more long rifles of .22 caliber or higher to the same customer within a five-day period.

President Obama should not hesitate to move forward with this regulation, no matter how loudly the gun lobby objects. Those who truly support securing the border understand that the greatest danger comes not from poor people seeking work but from heavily armed drug cartels and ruthless human traffickers. The only question is whether tracing the weapons would be an effective crime-fighting tool, and history says it would. When Congress passed a handgun reporting requirement in 1975 and the ATF stepped up enforcement in 1984, thousands of weapons were—and still are—traced to illegal activity and crime rings that were brought to prosecution.

Nor should the administration tremble at pro-gun saber-rattling about an infringement of 2nd Amendment rights. The regulation would not prohibit sales, purchases or ownership. Also, tracing is conducted only after a crime has been committed, not before.

One objection that cannot be dismissed is that the new rule would create more paperwork for some border-adjacent gun retailers. No business likes new red tape from Washington, but with the national security of two countries involved, the trade-off is worth the inconvenience.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times.



Hail to the Methodists

e described himself as one raised from a "conservative Midwest Methodist" family. He did two years at Northwestern (Methodist) in Evanston after graduation from U Illinois Champaign-Urbana before quitting to write for a mag. He launched his own picture rag that gained acceptance from the liberalizing Kinsey report. *Playboy* magazine and the lifestyle it promoted enriched Hugh Hefner in Chicago, built his empire Mansion West Los Angeles, and licensed bunny shirts in Heilongjiang.

I was 20 when I steamed from Manila in '65 into the SF Golden Gate Bridge aboard the SS *President Cleveland*. A fellow passenger on the 20-day trip sent me a subscription to *Playboy* magazine that year. Getting a brown paper wrapped magazine at a "conservative Midwest Methodist" institution did not endear me to the scholarship folks, but I lasted three semesters before we parted ways. I failed to notice the school's avowed defense of American Protestantism v. modernism.

Johnny Carson entertained his mom's Methodist Women's Auxiliary. He attended Millsaps College (Methodist) for his V-12 naval training and missed the Pacific theatre when he shipped out two days after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As an officer, however, he saw the effect of war's devastation in Guam in a medical rescue mission.

Hefner and Carson provided lively company from the magazine rack and TV.

Not raised on pigskin lore, I did not know much about the Mustangs of SMU and America's Team, the Dallas Cowboys. QB Don Meredith did SMU proud; Cowboy coach Tom Landry attended Highland Park UMC next to my dormitory. Carson on the *Tonight Show* quipped: "the Air Force is so bad this year that even SMU beat them!" Nimble Jerry LeVias, All-American Scholar consistent MVP integrated Mustang '66; he had my sympathies. Besides, our lunch was spent picketing a laundrymat behind the old Hilton on Central Expressway that defiantly displayed For Whites Only.

Van Harvey who studied Ludwig Feuerbach, an outsider like Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and Marx, his turn at humanism hardly orthodox, taught an ecumenical mix of a Rabbi, a Sufi, a Syrian Orthodox, a Copt, a Zen Buddhist, two Maryknollers and a couple of S.J.s, with Congregationalists and Holy Rollers, Presbyterians and Unitarians. Harvey noted a student's Playboy magazine once. Hefner was in his philosophical binge at the time; the student declared that he enjoyed reading the articles. The teacher picked up the mag, flipped to the center page and smiled: "Oh, I just like to look at the pictures." A few of thealogians impishly crossed their legs and beamed beatific smiles.

Conservative southwest Southern Methodist in Dallas in the Age of Aquarius had a burst of springtime, priding itself an Ivy League in the South before the ecclesiastical drawl drowned out children

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



of the Reformation, admirers of the Pope John XXIII's Vatican II.

Laura (SMU '68) and George Bush, Liz and Dick Cheney are

Methodists. But their White House listened to Pat Robertson and Donald Rumsfeld's conversations with God, which is no big deal in the realm of piety, but a disaster on public policy.

Harry Reid of the Senate is not a known Mormon, and the Catholics Biden-Pelosi-Boehner are Catholic. Inouye is our three-point shooter: lei'd Nippon vet Methodist from Hawaii!

Overtly Methodist President William McKinley articulated "manifest destiny" as public policy after kneeling with missioners sailing to Pea Eye. While living in D.C., Bill and Hillary at Foundry UMC were our type of Methodists, though they were upbraided for attending a fellowship second only to San Francisco's Glide UMC, our half-a-summer '66 church, as a House of Evil incarnate. Glide's pastor Cecil Williams, SMU '55, friend to both Guyana Jim Jones and CA Gov-elect Jerry Brown, allowed topless liturgical dancers. North Beach in the '60s liberated a few mammary glands from bra confines.

Hefner and Carson were run of the mill Methodist heirs. Carson completed his unique existence six years ago but night talk shows are still measured against his standard. Bush the Second's presidential library is at SMU. Hillary's popularity and integrity ratings remain high. Hugh Hefner, at 84, just got engaged to a Playmate three-fourth his junior. Our five-year May-to-September sojourn knows what joys and pains that entails, but April-to-December?

Social activists often are more defenders of a golden age rather than trailblazers for authentic love and real justice. Movemental at first, Methodists tend to turn parochial and partisan—Wesleyan, Primitive, United, or Free. Not so thoroughly Methodist mild-manner modern Millicent (in the French sense of a brave soul) Millie Moore Carroll ex-China missionary, peace advocate, defender of the marginalized, friend to the ostracized, and ardent Immanuel celebrant who is heading out of Saipan in March after a year's stint as local pastor. A pity. Her spirit is willing, I am told, but the fragile frame is frayed.

Hail to Methodists! They're as American as motherhood and apple pie! The movement needs to get moving again, perhaps, with less religious luggage.

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are extractly and the contributor of the contributor. of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kilos and Klubs, spiders and flies

e're an increasingly important square on the west Pacific chessboard, though a modern chessboard would dispense with rooks and knights and would have submarines and missiles instead. Hey, that might be easier, since I never understood the knights with their hinky L-hook maneuvers. So let's look at submarines.

Why not? Everybody else is. And some are kicking the tires and cutting checks. If you doubt that our Asia-Pacific neighborhood is in a serious military growth mode, then consider that even tiny and poor Vietnam, which is hardly a ranked naval power, has placed an order for six new submarines at a cost of about \$300 million each.

Vietnam's order is for the Russian Kilo class, a diesel sub known to be cost-effective and reliable. It's sort of the Toyota Corolla of submarines. No, they're not as fancy, fast, far-reaching, or potent as nuclear-powered submarines, but with the exception of Russia, nobody in Asia has yet fielded a substantial fleet of nuclear attack submarines, but that's a story for a different day; suffice it to say that for now, it's a pretty much a diesel game for Asian navies.

In the military version of a May-September romance, the crusty old diesel technology has been invigorated by pairing with a young and saucy partner, namely, the modern cruise missile.

Remember those WWII movies where the grizzled skipper (cigar stub clenched in his teeth, hat perched atop his head at a jaunty angle) squints into the periscope stalking his prey? You had to get close, real close, in those days, in order to kill a ship. Five miles is about as far as a sub-launched torpedo would go, but hitting something at that range was dicey.

Fast forward to modern times. Consider the Russian-made Klub-S (version 3M-54E1) anti-ship missile, which is commonly deployed on Kilo-class submarines. It's said to have a range of up to 300 kilometers, which is 162 nautical miles. For the sake of comparison, the distance from Saipan to Guam is only about 112 nautical miles. The missile hauls a monster warhead: 880 pounds. This was obviously designed as a carrier-killer. How they can manage to stuff this sort of range and muscle into something that can be launched from a little diesel boat's torpedo tubes is beyond me. But if these things can really do what they're designed to do, they are fearsome weapons indeed.

Moving from the missile back to its platform, I'll note that diesel submarines are well-suited for close-in coastal areas such as straits, choke points, and bays. In fact, if they're used correctly, they are very difficult to find in these situations, which can tax even the U.S. Navy's considerable capabilities.

Here's why: Diesel subs use batteries and electric motors for propulsion when at operating depth, and this is a very quiet way to operate. Silence is golden with subs. Everything is blind underwater: Even your show-off brother in law's best best video camera can't see 100 feet in the drink. But water conducts sound quite well. So navies use electronic ears called "sonar" to detect and track other ships. In the old war movies you'd see sonar operators listening to the audio over headphones, but in modern times the information is presented, stored, and analyzed in visual representations on computer screens.

Anyway, the farther a diesel ventures from the safety of its friendly enclaves, the more often it has to surface to run its diesel engines to recharge its batteries. They are noisy and vulnerable on or near the surface. Also, diesels are really slow. Long-range cruising speed for a submerged diesel is about 3 knots (3.5 mph), and, though they can crank that speed up to 20 knots or whatever, putting the pedal to the metal will drain the batteries in a matter of minutes. This is a good example of how the specs we often read in news

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and has been a U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



stories, such as speeds and ranges for submarines and airplanes and stuff like that, can be unintentionally misleading when they lack operational context.

So the basic way to use a diesel is not to chase other ships all over the doggone ocean, but to already be quietly waiting where those ships are headed. The sub is the spider, the ship is the fly. I'm not saying that other ways aren't used, though, since submariners are very resourceful professionals. My father served as the executive officer of a diesel sub; these guys live and breathe three-dimensional tactics. Make that four-dimensional, actually, since everything occurs along a time line.

And, when even Vietnam starts packing serious maritime heat, our Pacific neighborhood's military time line is getting more interesting by the week.

On a broader note, here's the U.S. terminology for the four basic categories of subs: Diesel powered (SS), nuclear powered fast attack (SSN), nuclear powered ballistic missile (SSBN), and the newest one, nuclear powered guided missile (SSGN). I'll provide an overview of these in a future column, but at least now we can spiel the terms like a pro-

So now all we need is that jaunty hat thing, and we'll be all set.

Letters to the Editor

A call for justice

pervert is caught spying on his 14-year-old niece while she's taking a shower. His bail is reduced from \$5,000 to \$200. Now he's out on the streets and is free to spy on other people's children.

A young girl is walking to school one fine morning and a group of thugs kidnap her, beat her unconscious, rape her, and leave her for dead. She staggers home and reports that she had been raped. Attorney General Ed Buckingham and his team of prosecutors had six months to build a case against these lowlife scumbags. Unfortunately the prosecutors fell short on building the case because the thugs charged with kidnapping and raping this young girl are now free to roam Saipan once again. This young child will probably see her attackers in her neighborhood, or at a store, or somewhere on our tiny island. How traumatic will this be for this poor girl? And what about the animals who raped her? Perhaps next time they will kill their victim.

A man is sent to prison for murder. His sentence is commuted and he's released from prison for "compassionate reasons." While out, the convicted murderer molests a child. If this murderer were never released early and were still in prison, he would have never had an opportunity to do something so despicable.

These are only three of the scores of cases where criminals either go free or get a tap on the wrist (I said "tap" because "slap" appears to be too harsh). Our judicial system has become a joke here in our islands. Prisoners commit crimes and if in the rare chance they actually go to prison, they are pampered in a stateof-the-art, air-conditioned prison facility that is in better shape than any of our schools. Their food is excellent. They have a workout room. They get to read books and watch TV. I'm beginning to wonder if this is a prison or the YMCA? Perhaps a lot of people are committing crimes in hopes of getting in! Why not? It certainly beats living homeless and hungry.

What is going on in our community? Do criminals have more rights than victims of crimes? Whatever happened to retribution? Whatever happened to "If you do the crime, you do the time"? Is there really a point to having courts, judges, and an Attorney General's Office when criminals are rarely punished and put behind bars for a reasonable amount of time?

Our local system of justice is in dire need of change. Perhaps we should just legalize crime. MVA has been told to diversify its tourist market. Now MVA can target career criminals to boost our tourism numbers. Potential slogans? "What crime you commit on Saipan stays on Saipan" or "Crime Pays in the CNMI!" And as far as saving money? We'd save millions annually if we closed down the "Guma Hustisia" and our AG's Office and the Public Defender's Office.

If this sounds much too radical, then here are a few alternate

- Elect an Attorney General. I've heard all the arguments against electing an AG, such as "If our people elect lousy leaders, they will elect a lousy AG." Their arguments have some merit, considering some of the yahoos we've elected over the years. But I can tell you, the most important reason why we must elect our AG is so that we have an AG who is removed from the Governor's grasp. Throughout Commonwealth history, the AG has been appointed by the Governor, and the AG more often than not ends up being a political puppet who must answer to the Governor. If we elect an AG, s/he will have to answer to you, me, and Juan Q. Publiku instead! And if s/he ends up being a lousy AG? Then we fire him or her or elect another AG in the next election. How do we attract good candidates for an elected AG? Strict requirements and an attractive salary. Anything is better than our current system, and electing an AG will most importantly mean that the AG will no longer have to bow down to the Governor. And this means the AG will actually be able to PROSECUTE the Governor and all public officials if they break the law. Now, wouldn't that be special?
- Special prosecutor for OPA. The Office of the Public Auditor has no teeth. The OPA conducts its audits, submits evidence to the AG's Office, and that's the end of it. OPA should have a special prosecutor who can go after white-collar criminals. OPA has discovered millions of dollars that are owed back to the CNMI by government employees and public officials who misspent, abused, or flat out stole from taxpayers. (To learn details, see Tony Pellegrino's article "Corruption-being robbed by our own citizens" at http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory. aspx?cat=3&newsID=104455.) How much has the AG's Office gotten back so far? I'd bet all the Spam on Saipan it is a mere pittance, if anything at all. A special prosecutor working at OPA will be able to use the information uncovered by the OPA and go after these crooks.
- Three-strikes rule. Why do we see the same criminals in court time and time again? Because they are constantly being released from prison to commit more crimes. Let's keep career criminals where they belong—behind bars. Criminals who commit three felonies must face mandatory prison sentences. That way there will be no plea-bargaining or weak prison sentences of "ten years in jail, all suspended with credit for time served." Hello? Lawmakers? Can one of you work on putting this into law?

I have no love for violent scumbags who prey on innocent victims and I have no patience for politics in our justice system. We are fortunate we have a very patient community, because in other places in the world, we would see widespread vigilantism. We take pride in having a mostly peaceful community, but with crime at an all-time high, we must protect ourselves. The bars on our homes and the multiple locks on our doors and the boonie dogs in our yards are not enough to keep us safe, because we eventually have to leave our homes. The more we have criminals roaming the streets, the more chances we have of becoming victims. Short of arming ourselves with guns and blowing thugs away, it is time we rally together and

To the scumbags of the CNMI who believe it is okay to use your wife and children as a punching bag, or kidnap and rape a child, or sell crystal meth to our students, or murder someone because they looked at you wrong, or steal and burglarize people's homes because you are too lazy to work, I want you to know that God is not sleeping. One day, when your insignificant, wasted life ends here on earth, and you're begging to get in to the Gates of Heaven, I hope and pray Saint Peter will look at the long list of crimes you committed and the pain and suffering you caused, and say to you only two words: "Adios Muchacho!"

May God bless the law-abiding community members of the Commonwealth.

Ed Propst

Article 12 has backfired

I am Chamorro. Several friends have offered me good money to purchase my land. I own plenty of land and would like to sell parts of it to have a better life. I am broke and unemployed. The only thing is, my friends are not Chamorro and can't purchase land from me. They do not care to lease my land. I have received offers from Chamorros, but those offers were very low. Article 12 has backfired on me because I can't sell my land to who I want and for the price I want. This needs to be fixed so that the system can work

Antonio Aldan Kagman

Why Northern Marianas?

I'm just curious, why do we call our islands the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands? To my understanding, we call all islands north of Saipan, the Northern Islands. Is it because we are north of other commonwealth governments? North of Guahan? Did I say that right? Correct me please for I was not born during the naming names era. School me if you will, I just got to know.

Vince G. Cabrera

Chalan Piao

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY



Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.

▲ 86° ▼ 77°

SUNDAY



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers

▲86° ▼77°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with

isolated showers

▲ 87° ▼ **77°**

TUESDAY



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Ro	ta Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 91 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Maiuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

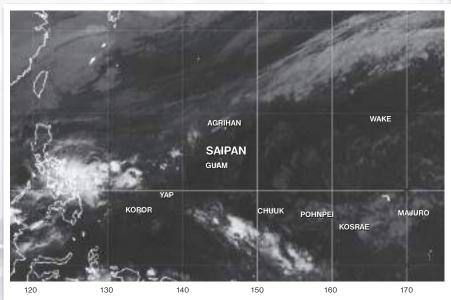
Auckland	Sunny	▲ 73	▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 32	▼13
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66	₹45
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74	▼ 66
London	Rain	▲ 51	▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61	▼ 44
Manila 7	Thundershowers	≜ 81	₹73
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 77	▼ 66
Miami	Sunny	▲ 71	▼52
New York	Snow	▲ 33	₹27
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	4 7	▼35
Paris	Rain	▲ 51	▼47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	4 44	₹27
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 60	▼ 49
Salem	Showers	▲ 46	▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57	▼ 50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	\$ 35	▼17
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	4 8	▼33

Tides Saipan Harbor 3:29 AM Today Low Tide: 0.2 Feet 10:22 AM Today High Tide: 1.9 Feet 4:09 PM Low Tide: 1.0 Feet Today 8:51 PM Today High Tide: 1.8 Feet

▲38 ▼27

Washington, DC Snow

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

A shear line extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N165E through Anatahan at 16N146E to beyond 130E at 13N. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary between 165E and 144E. A surface trough runs northward from 10N142E to 15N142E. Interaction between the trough and the aforementioned shear line is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of the southern Marianas and also north of Yap and Koror or within 70 miles of a line from 8N130E to 14N138E to 14N141E to 18N142E. Another surface trough reaches northwestward from EQ158E to end west of Chuuk at 8N149E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen southwest of Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 8N145E to 4N150E and also south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 90 miles of a line from 5N151E to 1N158E. A trade-wind disturbance is causing widely scattered to scattered showers over Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 4N168E to 8N171E to 8N178E.

Su	ınrise/Suns	set
Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset						
Today	8:35 AM	8:30 PM				
Saturday	9:13 AM	9:17 PM				
Sunday	9:48 AM	10:04 PM				
Monday	10:23 AM	10:50 PM				
Tuesday	10:58 AM	11:36 PM				

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. ■ TRAVELOGUE
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34. P.O. Box 10001. Saipan. CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Boad, Garapan, Saipan,

To check if contributions are re 6397 235-2440 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010 **DEPARTURES ARRIVALS SAIPAN-GUAM GUAM-SAIPAN** 4:25am 5:15am C09316 2:45am 3:35am C09313 7:55am 8:45am C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 3.6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 0.09596 7:00am 7:50am 12457 1. 2. 4. 5. 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily **SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)** NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DI 298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DI 287 6:10am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, ,4, 5, 6 DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7 DL297 8:00pm 12:30am+1 Daily 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily **DL288** SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) **OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN** 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily 0Z119 4:00am 6:40am Daily **BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)** 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7 0Z608 0Z607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 **SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN** 07606 9:00am 2:20pm 2. 4. 6. 7 2·10am 6·00am 07603 0Z606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 0Z120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX 07604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 0Z605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 07119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX 07605 **SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)** SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5 **SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN** 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, S 0Z6 076

DZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN CO9317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT CO9313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM CO9313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM CO9603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM Palau CO9603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM Palau CO9604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 CO9605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM CO9599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM CO9599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM CO934/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM CO934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM CO934/9596 11:5pm 7:50am+1 5			20, 24 & 27	only			19, 23 & 26	only
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C09317/891					0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM Palau C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM Palau C0892/9596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PRI10/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 3 via GUM Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 7:50am+1				3, 6 via GUM 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL172/286 C0890/9606	8:05am 10:55am	12:20am+1 8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
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OZFO4/T03 3:20pm 11:00pm Z, 4, 6, 7 CN OZFO4/T15 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 Via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 Via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 Via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 Via GU C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 Via GU C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1			,	5 via GUM 5 via GUM-	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
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VIATEN 17/707613 1017411 / 201011 / 2.6			,		0Z724/603 0Z750/603		•	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN 2, 4, 6, 7

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			via ICN	0Z750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
C09603/909	3:05pm	,	1, 5 via GUM				via ICN		
0Z604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN		
			via ICN	0Z722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7				via ICN		
	,	,	via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm7:	:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlin OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA I	requency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■ *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

Ex-cop asks court to dismiss 1 of 4 charges against him

A former policeman accused of drug trafficking has asked the court to dismiss one of the four charges filed against him because of lack of evidence.

At the same time, the federal court issued yesterday an order granting Florencio Q. Richards' motion to a court-appointed investigator who will help prepare his defense. The court authorized a limited expense for this investigator in the amount of \$1,600. His jury trial is set on Feb. 7, 2011.

The government filed last Oct. 21 an indictment charging Richards with conspiracy to distribute controlled substance,

distribution of a controlled substance, carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

Upon learning of the indictment, Richards voluntarily turned himself in to the U.S. Marshall on Oct. 26, 2010 where he was taken into custody. A detention hearing was held on Nov. 1 and was ordered detained pending trial of the case.

He is presented in court by attorney Michael N. Evangelista, who claims that the count IV (possession of a firearm by a prohibited person) of the indict-

ment is defective and fails to state an offense.

"Count IV of the indictment is defective in that it is void of any evidence or allegations establishing a prima facie case of the offense that Richards is charged with; possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. Count IV is invalid on its face as it does not state facts sufficient to demonstrate that Richards is an 'unlawful user' of a controlled substance, which is a necessary or compulsory element of the alleged offense," said Evangelista.

The lawyer added that it is not certain from the language

of count IV if Richards is being charged with any offense.

Evangelista said given that the government has not pled any facts or provided any information to establish that Richards is an "unlawful user" as defined in the Ninth Circuit, the indictment is improper.

"As a matter of plain statutory interpretation, the term of unlawful user is not applicable to Richards as described in the indictment," the lawyer added.

The 32-year-old Richards, and others allegedly conspired sometime in July 2010, to distribute "ice" in exchange for money and other things of value.

During these transactions, he allegedly had a Smith & Wesson 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun under the seat of his pickup truck. The CNMI Joint Drug Task Force arrested Richards and Belinda O. Omengkar on July 15, 2010, for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice." The two were inside a 1993 Hilux pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base. At the time, Richards was off-duty.

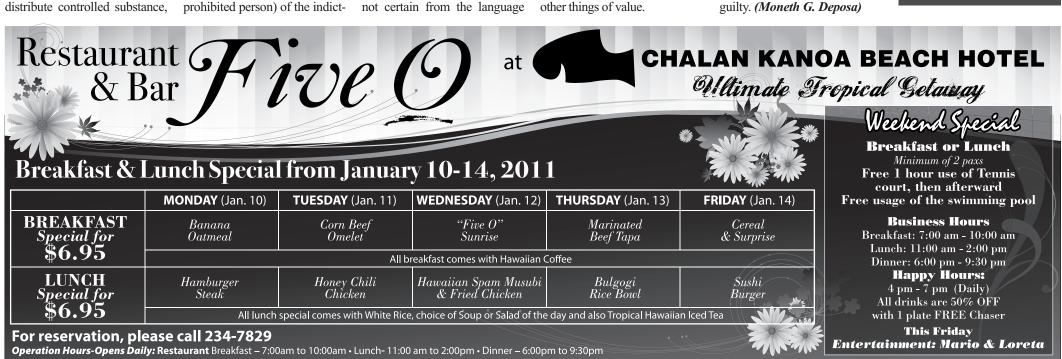
Richards and Omengkar have pleaded not guilty to the charges filed separately in the Superior Court. In the federal court case, Richards also pleaded not guilty. (Moneth G. Deposa)



bless! Greetings from your Jo-

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

eten Ace Hardware Family.





11:00am-3:00pm

MONDAY

Tempura, Yakitori, Salad, Ramen, Coco, Rice

TUESDAY

Fried Chicken, Grilled Saba, Spaghetti, Coco, Salad, Rice, Miso soup

WEDNESDAY

Sukiyaki, Fried Fish, Coco, Salad, Ramen, Rice

THURSDAY

Chamorro Beef Steak, Sashimi, Coco, Spaghetti, Rice, Miso soup

FRIDAY

Tempura, Teriyaki Chicken, Yakisoba, Coco, Rice, Miso soup

SATURDAY

Sashimi, Boneless Fried Chicken, Spaghetti Carbonara, Salad, Rice, Miso soup

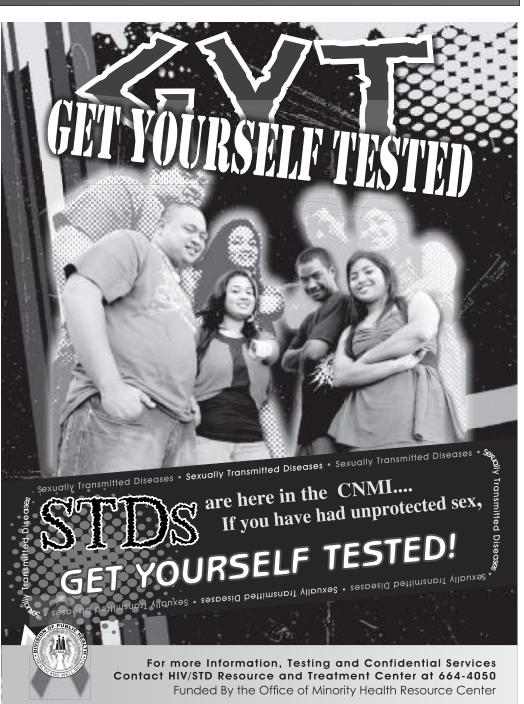
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AUSTRALIAN ENVOY Gov. Benigno R. Fitial welcomes Australia's Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau,

and Marshall Islands Susan Cox, who paid a courtesy visit to the CNMI governor on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Cox, who represents Australia in Micronesia, arrived on Saipan for her final visit as she prepares to end her tour of duty. Fitial presented a local woodcraft as a token of remembrance from

Case of alien who sued because of her delayed deportation dismissed

The U.S. District Court for the CNMI, through visiting judge Mark W. Bennett, issued Wednesday its opinion on the case filed by Yu Hua Jin Aquino, who sued some correction officials and their legal counsel for her delayed deportation as ordered by the court.

Visiting judge Bennett also granted the defendant's motions to dismiss the case and ruled dismissal of Aquino's case in its entirety, with prejudice.

Aquino, a Chinese national, was arrested on Saipan on April 13, 2008 on drug charges. She eventually entered a guilty plea to two of the charges against her and agreed to be deported at the conclusion of her sentence.

Based on the judgment and commitment order signed on Oct. 10, 2008 Aquino pleaded guilty to illegal possession of controlled substance as charged in Counts II and III of the information. Pursuant to the terms of plea agreement, Aquino was sentenced to one year imprisonment on each count, to run concurrently, with credit for time served.

In the judgment and commitment order, it was indicated that Aquino shall be released on April 11, 2009 at 8am and shall be released immediately to the CNMI or Federal Immigration Official for immediate removal from the CNMI. The order was later amended correcting her release date to April 13, 2009.

Aquino was not released or deported immediately upon the completion of her sentence on April 13, 2009 nor was she taken before a judge to have her continued detention reviewed. Instead, she remained incarcerated until July 10, 2009—a period of 88 days.

On July 10, 2009, on a motion by Aquino's counsel, the court ordered Aquino's release on her own recognizance.

It was on Nov. 23, 2009 when Aquino filed her original complaint alleging federal question jurisdiction. She named as defendants the CNMI; secretary of corrections Dolores San Nicolas both in her individual and official capacity; Gregory F. Castro—director of corrections; and Kathleen Busenkell, as her official capacity as an assistant attorney general. She then amended her complaint on Aug. 5, 2010.

The defendants, however, filed two separate motions to dismiss the case against them: on Sept. 8, 2010 and Oct. 1, 2010.

"The federal court concluded, however, that Aquino's 88-day detention without a bail hearing was neither specifically provided for nor prohibited by statute, so that the questioned were whether Aquino's due process rights were violated by the failure to deport her 'immediately' upon the completion of her sentence..." the opinion stated.

The defendants' motion stated that the "immediate" did not mean deportation without any delay, however reasonable, arising from the practicalities of deportation or from unforeseen circumstances.

The court also dismissed Aquino's emotional distress claim as well as the breach of contract claim. (Moneth G. Deposa)

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paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price \$18,457.20. Documentation fees and registration not included.

Legal opinion on CUC's petition for power rate increase sought

>> Legal analysis says approval does not require public hearing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_depos REPORTER

The consultant for the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission—Georgetown Consulting—has requested a legal analysis and opinion regarding the petition for emergency power rate hike filed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. last Dec. 30.

In the legal analysis handed to the commission by lawyer Robert T. Torres, he stated that CPUC has the extraordinary authority to grant the rate hike proposal without conducting a public hearing on the matter.

CUC wants a 2.243 cents per kWh increase in (levelized energy adjustment clause) LEAC rate, or from the existing \$0.24446 per kWh to \$0.26688 per kWh effective Jan. 1, 2011. CUC asked the commission's immediate consideration of the emergency power rate hike and asked to suspend any public notice which might normally be required due to the immediate and emergency nature of the petition.

CUC found that due to increased world oil prices, pres-

already produced at least a \$1-million loss in LEAC revenue collections to the agency including CUC's budgeted management of the combined utility system. Without such increase, situation may result to rampant power outages, CUC shutdown, and noncompliance with federal stipulated order requirements which may result to receivership of CUC in the end.

CPUC last set the LEAC rate in September 2010 through March 30, 2011.

In a three-page opinion issued Wednesday, it was clear that the commission can approve the petition without any public hearing pursuant to its policy.

"It is clear that under its enabling statute, the commission has the extraordinary authority to grant interim relief for CUC to increase the current LEAC rate without a public hearing. However, CPUC is dutybound to set forth in its order specific findings that warrant the expedited implementation of the new LEAC rate without the hearing procedures..." stated the legal opinion.

through March 31, 2011 have indicated that CPUC must examine closely CUC's economic data and determine whether it has presented convincing proof that it will stand to under recover more than \$350,000 under the current LEAC rate.

> Torres said that although required under 4 CMC 8422 to hold public hearings on any change in proposed rates or charges, in its discretion and for good cause shown, CPUC may approve partial and immediate relief on less than a complete record. Upon granting of such relief, revenues collected upon such relief shall be subject to refund with appropriate interest and upon such security as the commission may require.

> The legal opinion stated that based on the CPUC's order on Dec. 19, 2008, it anticipates the possibility that CUC may need to request an expedited adjustment of the current LEAC rate.

> "Under those provisions, CUC must justify the request by convincing actual or projected economic data that it will under recover more than the threshold sum of \$350,000 under the existing LEAC rate,"

CCA to launch new fundraising activities

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa_david@saipantribune.com

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is looking at supplementing their funds this year with new fundraising activities.

According to program manager Tina Sablan, their organization mostly relies on local contributions and the Marianas March Against Cancer revenue.

"This year we look forward to augmenting Marianas March Against Cancer revenue with other fundraisers throughout the year, including weekly raffle ticket sales during Trivia Tuesdays at Wild Bill's, fun runs/walks, and benefit concerts such as the Hard Rock Café's Pinktober festivities," she said.

She said the Commonwealth Cancer Association sells raffle tickets for \$1 each during Trivia Tuesdays at 7:30pm for a chance to win various prizes such as gift certificates.

Sablan said the fun runs or walks they conduct every month are called the Second Saturday Strides wherein they request a donation fee of \$5 per participant.

The Pinktober Concert, on the other hand, draws together breast cancer survivors and advocates for a night of fun, live music, a silent auction, and lots of raffle prizes to help raise breast cancer awareness.

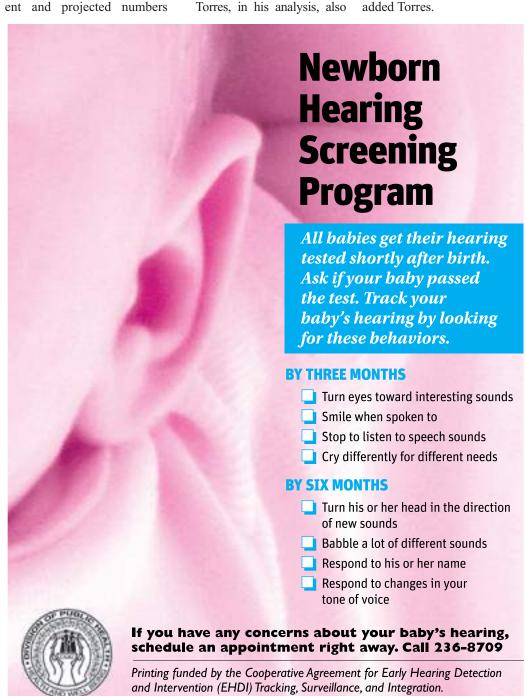
Sablan told Saipan Tribune that another big fundraiser for the group this year would be the customized water bottles in collaboration with Saipan Ice & Water Co.

"We will come up with water bottles that send important messages to the community like encouraging them to drink more water," she said.

Since they also attained taxexempt status under the Internal Revenue Code, Sablan said they look forward to applying for more contributions and private foundation grants.

Established in 2003, CCA is a nonprofit, non-government cancer support organization for the CNMI.

CCA engages in cancer awareness and education, provides patient support and services, and serves as the liaison for cancer matters in the Commonwealth and the region.





PIC to celebrate Russian Christmas and New Year

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com

Russian guests planning to celebrate their holiday on island are in for a treat as Pacific Islands Club organized a Russianstyle Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations with a modern touch today and next Friday, respectively.

Web marketing manager Elly Stoilova said PIC has established the tradition of celebrating the two occasions every year based on the Orthodox Church calendar to give Russian guests the opportunity to enjoy the local culture and promote Saipan when they go back to Russia.

Stoilova said they also want

to promote the talented youth on island who deserve to be featured and can help local tourism by interacting with the Russian guests.

"We hope that with all the photos and videos taken, these guests will share the stories with their friends, relatives, and coworkers to bring us more customers from Russia in the near future," she added.

The premier Russian market hotel will host a spectacular Christmas party at The Magellan restaurant with performances from the Saipan Music and Dance Studio and the PIC Clubmates.

Santa Claus, a well-known Christmas character, and his granddaughter, Snegurochka, will give away Saipanda as a Christmas gift to every Russian child.

Prince, the magician, along with the Clubmates, will also have all young Russian guests entertained through activities and holiday cartoons.

To give the party a modern look, PIC invited five of the best local teen dance groups to provide entertainment for the Russian guests. R.B.K Dance Crew, Project Impact, Elements, Project Impact Level Up, and FDC will perform and battle for the

best dancers' title.

During the Christmas party, there will also be raffle tickets for sale to raise funds for the orphans at Children Hospital #3 in Vladivostok, Russia as part of PIC's charity project called "Sharing Seeds."

Since 2009, PIC has been providing help to the orphans by installing new windows and doors and building a partition at the hospital as well as purchasing essentials such as diapers and baby food.

Exciting raffle draw prizes include optional tours at Sand-Castle, Stars and Stripes, and Jade Lady III; sightseeing tours with Belka Tours; massages at Thai Spa, Mandi Spa, Serenity Salon & Spa, and Healing Stone; certificates from Star Sands Plaza, Payless Shoes, Sketchers, Islander Mini Mart; and gifts from Joeten Shopping Center, LA Tax, Tasi Tours, and PIC Boutiki.

For the New Year celebration on Jan. 13, Russian guests will

be treated to a special beach party, with a Russian celebrity and a DJ to grace the party.

Stoilova thanked all businesses that donated raffle prizes for their Russian-style Christmas and New Year's celebrations, including DFS, King's Jewelry, Hertz, Restaurant 360, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Tony Roma's and Capricciosa, Café at the Park, Thai House, and Marianas Visitors Authority.

For more information, call 237-5196.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MTEC meeting tomorrow

The Marianas Tourism Education Council will hold its first meeting of 2011 tomorrow at 3pm at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Beach Road, Oleai. MTEC is a nonprofit organization promoting community awareness on the importance of the visitor industry in the Northern Marianas. Membership is open to individuals, community groups, schools, and government agencies. For more information, contact Martin Duenas or Ed Diaz at 1.670.664.3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com.

Marianas PitBull general membership meeting on Jan. 9

Marianas PitBull will hold a general membership meeting on Jan. 9, 2010 at the Old Japanese Hospital (CNMI Museum) Middle Road across Garapan Central Park from 2pm to 4pm. Important matters to be discuss including the association's upcoming event.

9 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Bird Island Beach, Jeffries Beach, Hidden Beach, Old Man by the Sea, Tank Sea, North Laulau Beach, South Laulau Beach, Ladder Beach, and Unai Dangkulo and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

1 Rota beach site redflagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the West Harbor Marina and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from the site had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Rota this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

OES PTSA meeting on Jan. 11

The Oleai Elementary School PTSA will have a meeting on Jan. 11 beginning at 6pm at the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend the meeting. (*PR*)

Art of Marriage onference

Is your marriage on the rocks or do you have a great marriage? Either way, you are invited to attend The Art of Marriage Conference at Saipan Community Church on Feb. 11-12. The cost is \$35 per couple for the materials. Pre-married couples may also attend. There is only room for 25 couples. If you would like to reserve your space a \$20 deposit is required or you can pay the full amount. Contact Jill at 483-7245 or email only1jillc@yahoo.com. For more information you can www.familylife.com/

theartofmarriage. (PR)

PH Consulate to offer Saturday, Sunday services in 2011

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan plans to continue its One-Sunday-A-Month Consular services, with an additional plan of alternating Saturday services for 2011.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said this is due to the number of Filipinos in the CNMI who have availed of these weekend consular services.

The Philippine Consulate General will have the following weekend schedule for the first six months of 2011:

- January 30, Sunday
- February 26, Saturday
- March 20, Sunday April 16, Saturday
- May 22, Sunday ■ June 25, Saturday

out lunch breaks.

The office will be open to provide consular services and it will observe its usual office hours from 9am to 4pm with-

For inquiries on any consular service, contact the Philippine Consulate General at 234-1850, fax 234-1849 or email saipanpcg@pticom.com. (PR)

please contact

Frank Ermitanio

or John Blas at 235-6044.

Judge lowers bail for man found peeking on his niece

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

monetn_deposa@saipantribune.com

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman lowered the bail set for a man who was found peeking on his niece last Monday.

From \$5,000 bail set for Sicktus David Sellem, the judge cut it down to \$2,000 and approved his temporary release if the defendant posts 10 percent of the amount—or \$200.

Sellem, who appeared in a bail hearing Wednesday, was charged of disturbing the peace and indecent exposure after he was found peeking on his niece on Jan. 3.

He is set for arraignment on Jan. 18 at 9am, while preliminary hearing of his case is slated for Jan. 12.

Court documents showed that the police received a call from John Jones last Monday morning around 6:05am. Police officer Raymond Borja was immediate dispatched at his residence in Achugao to investigate the reported incident of disturbing the peace.

Preliminary probe revealed

that at about 5:45am., Jones' wife Julieta caught her brother-in-law peeking into the bathroom window while their 14-year-old daughter was in the shower.

Julieta, upon seeing the brother-in-law in his indecent behavior, asked the man about his presence on the area. The complaint learned that on

The complaint learned that on other occasions, Sellem would go into the bedroom of his common-law children and look at the two girls sleeping.

About 3pm on Monday, Sellem admitted the offense during an interrogation by the police. He explained that he went to his brother's residence just to recover his cigarettes and lime when he heard somebody was in the shower.

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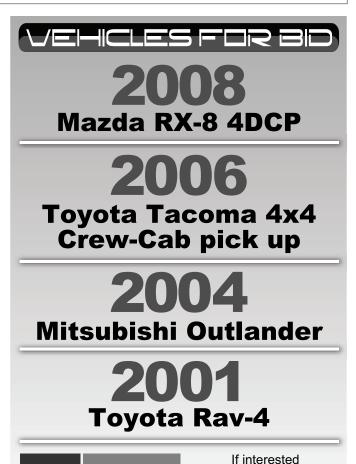
B E A C H R O A D

NEW OFFICE LOCATION...



MARIANAS EYE INSTITUTE WELLS FARGO

FINANCIAL





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Foreground from left, Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz, MarForPac Executive Director Mr. Craig Whelden, Mar-ForPac Commanding General Duane Thiessen and CNMI historian Don Farrell.

Committee releases MLK Day schedule of events

The African-American Cultural Preservation Committee announces and invites the public to participate in the 2011 Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Commemoration Program and activities.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day falls on the third Monday of January each year, and on Monday, Jan. 17, 2011.

"We are optimistic that the community will continue to take this opportunity and invitation to join this year's program-activities and treat it as 'A Day On Not A Day Off' and 'Let Freedom Ring In The Pacific," said AACPC president Joe Hill.

He added, "It is fitting to reflect on and be mindful that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for and symbolizes nonviolence, peace and justice regardless of or national origin."

This year's theme is "I Have A Dream: Reifying The Dream In The Mariana Islands".

Attorney Jesse Pennington, born and raised in the segregated south, Mississippi, from where he was forced to flee by threats of a lynch mob, will deliver the keynote address and share his experiences in a question and answer session.

Pennington also worked with Micronesian Legal Services in the 1970s and brings a unique perspective on social and cultural development in Micronesia and the U.S. mainland.

The schedule of events also includes presentations and question and answer sessions with students and the public at schools on Saipan on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011; Rota on Friday, Jan. 14,

race, social, economic, religious 2011 and Tinian on Jan. 15, 2011.

Pennington will appear as special guest on "Your Humanities Half Hour" airing Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011 at 2pm on Power 99.5 FM, hosted by Catherine Perry Anderson and sponsored by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities. These activities are designed as educational tools, open to all who value Dr. King's tenets of non-violent, positive social change.

Location: Visitor's Center, Theatre, American Memorial Park, Garapan, Saipan, Monday, Jan. 17, 2011 at 1pm.

Special recognition is due Aquarius Tower Beach Hotel and Saipan Hyatt Regency for accommodations and to the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities as sponsors. (PR)

MarForPac officials visit Tinian

manding general Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen and its executive director Maj. Gen. Craig B. Whelden, U.S. Army (retired) visited Tinian last Jan. 4 and were greeted at North Field by Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz's welcoming committee included Tinian military liaison officer Jose Kyoshi and Tinian resident directors of DPS, DLNR and THC and CNMI historian Don Farrell.

Thiessen and Whelden, the two most senior officials of the U.S. Marine Corps for

the entire Pacific region, were on island specifically to get a first-hand look of the site chosen for the Marine Corps rifle range, maneuver area, and the Tinian Harbor.

The familiarization tour began at the North Field National Historic Landmark, adjacent to the atomic bomb pits. From there, the tour proceeded on to Invasion Beach, Mount Lasso, Old San Jose Village, the site chosen for the rifle ranges, the 107th SeaBee Monument, Tinian Harbor and a brief stop at the House of Taga before leaving from the West Field airport.

According to Dela Cruz, "from the discussions we had with Lt. Gen. Thiessen and Executive Director Whelden, it is clear to me that Tinian's role in the impending military build-up in our region is critical to Department of Defense planning.

The mayor further stated he is "anxiously awaiting the outcome of the bilateral negotiations between the United States and Japan. They may well dictate the future of Tinian." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

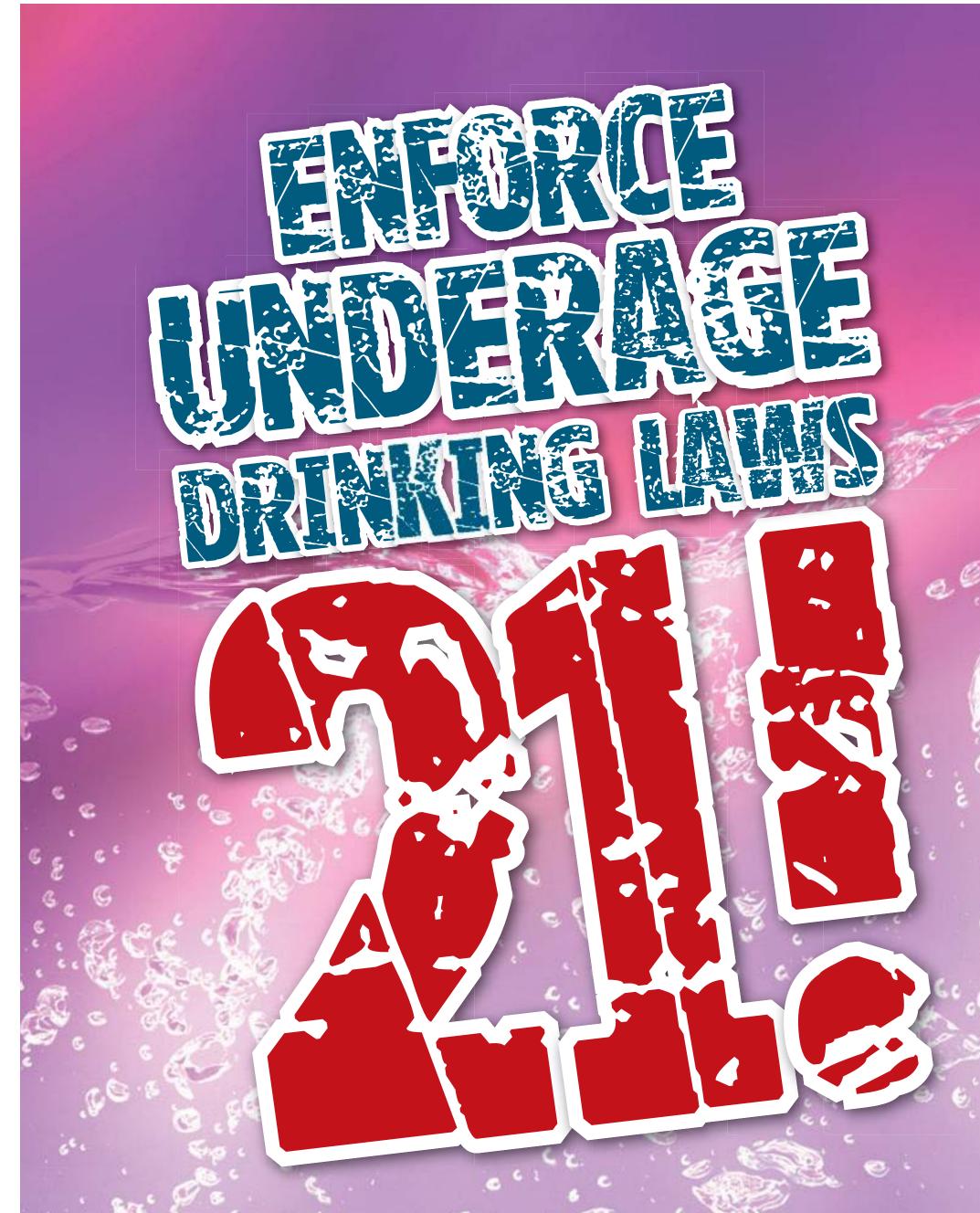
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Foreground from left, Lt. General Duane Thiessen (USMC) and Don Farrel discuss the history of Tinian Harbor. Background from left, Col. Robert D. Loynd (USMC), Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz, MarForPac Exec. Director Mr. Craig Whelden.



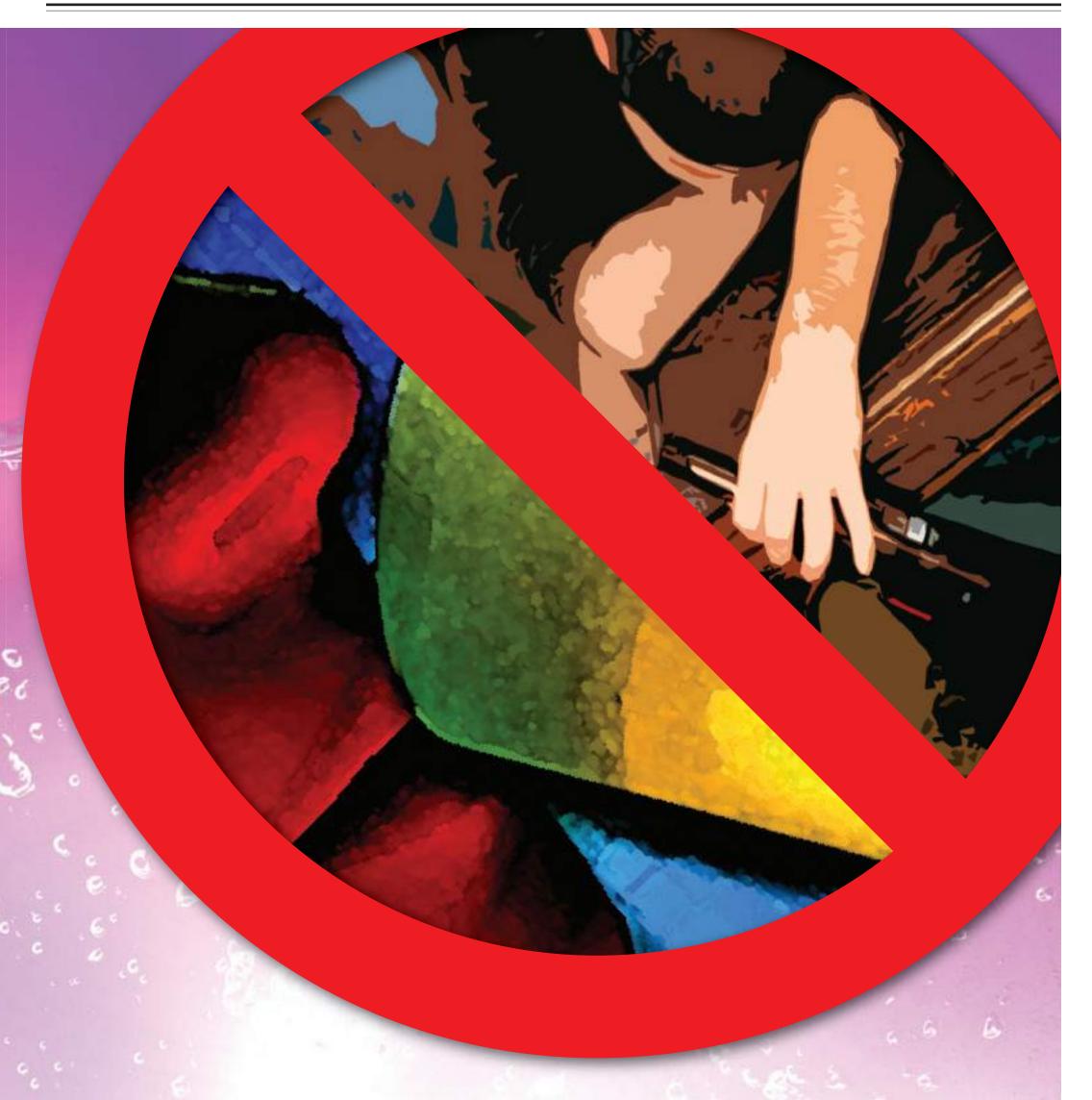
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18 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



A message from the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Task Force. Made possible by a grant from

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 19



NOT PROVIDE ALCOHOL TO MINORS UNDER 21! ELP KEEP OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SAFE!

om the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Hawaiian business leaders visit Western Pacific

TUMON, Guam—A delegation of Native Hawaiian business leaders traveled to Guam the first week in January to renew friendships and strengthen economic cooperation. Ray Jardine representing the Native Hawaiian Organizations Association (NHOA), Billy Ornellas and Austin Nakoa representing the Native Hawaiian Economic Alliance (NHEA), and Robin Danner with the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) joined Guam business leaders to share common experiences.

"One of the initiatives that came out of our Business Forum held in October 2010 in Honolulu, was to unify our efforts around growing business to business connections between small and large firms in Hawaii and the Pacific," said Billy Ornellas, NHEA vice president. "We know that as island economies, we have many of the same priorities like local hire and growing successful businesses, and infusing our island cultures into everything we do."

The group included small and large firms from Hawaii and

This is to let all veterans and all

from Guam and the Common-

other areas connected by the Pacific Ocean. "Good business starts with good relationships, said Ray Jardine, NHOA board member. "We are here in Guam the same way we are on Kauai or Oahu back home, to learn, to share, and to listen to each other to identify ways that we can support one another."

Meetings were held with the Guam Chamber of Commerce, business leaders and university officials, with topics ranging from workforce development strategies, federal government contracting requirements, small business needs, the economy of Guam and the plans and partnerships being forged.

"It is fascinating to listen and to hear in many ways, our own story in Hawaii, right here in Guam and surrounding Pacific Island nations," said Robin Danner, CEO of CNHA. "The business challenges, as well as the opportunities are near identical—I'm heartened by the passion and determination of Guam's leaders to be active in shaping their island's future."

The Hawaiian organizations shared an initiative that

originated from a forum with members of President Obama's White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) in Honolulu in late 2010. Jobs and economic development, as well as cultural integrity ranked high on the priority of leaders around the Pacific at the forum.

"At our forum in Honolulu, we discussed many of the issues I heard here in Guam," said Danner. "What the leaders came out with is a collaborative approach to doing something meaningful and real about promoting locally owned small business firms. Together, we created the Pacific Business Partnership Initiative to certify our small businesses to the criteria needed by big business to hire them and to certify big business to the criteria of our business and community leaders to work well in our Pacific region."

NHOA, NHEA and CNHA shared the focus of the Pacific Business Partnership founded in Hawaii with a service area that includes Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories of Guam and American Samoa. "We are all connected by one ocean," said Ornellas. "We are one ocean, one people really, with so much to share with each other, what to avoid and also what has worked well."

Assistant Secretary of the Office of Insular Affairs, Anthony Babauta, a Guam Native and the highest appointed Pacific Islander official in the Obama Administration attended both forums in Honolulu and Guam. "At the end of the day, it's up to our island leaders to forge pathways, these convenings are a great start," he said. "The talent in the Pacific is immense, and by working together, business and community leaders from the major island regions can implement many of the solutions to the priorities of their people no matter where they live in the Pacific."

Another common factor in Guam and in Hawaii is the interest and partnership of other Native community enterprises, including tribal corporations and Alaska Native corporations. Tribes and their community enterprises have been implementing successful business strategies to support their

cultural life ways and address a myriad of socio-economic needs in Native areas across the country.

"Native cultures in our state, like Pacific island cultures share a common respect and responsibility for the sea, for the land and for the people," said Barney Uhart, the CEO of Chugach Alaska, a Nativeowned business enterprise with contracts located across the globe. "We believe in local partnerships, in not only good corporate citizenship wherever our businesses are located, but we also know that we have a responsibility to share our experience and knowledge over the last 20 years of taking hold of our economic destiny by engaging in business enterprises that embrace the values and culture of our Native community owners."

Chugach-Alaska hosted the gathering in Guam, where the company has 200 employees and sponsors local nonprofits such as Hurao Academy, a Chamorro language school dedicated to youth and families perpetuating Chamorro language and culture. (PR)

2011. ■ Jan. 10, Monday Registration for students with PC # 000000100 through 000010350

■ Jan. 11, Tuesday Registration for students with PC #000010351 through 000013150

NMC Spring 2011

begins next week

The Northern Marianas College

yssterday announced that regis-

tration for the upcoming Spring

2011 semester will be ongoing

from Monday, Jan. 10, to Satur-

Students can register on the

day designated for their Pow-

erCampus ID number. New

students can begin register-

ing on Thursday, January 13,

registration

day, Jan. 15, 2011.

■ Jan. 12, Wednesday Registration for students with PC # 000013151 through 000014950

■ Jan. 13, Thursday Registration for all New, Ongoing, and Readmitted students

■ Jan. 14, Friday Registration for all New, Ongoing, and Readmitted students

■ Jan. 15. Saturday Late Registration

Students may register between 9am and 6pm, Monday through Friday, and between 9am and 12pm on Saturday.

For additional information or inquiries, visit the NMC Office of Admissions and Records or call 234-5498 ext. 1528/1537. (PR)

concern that from Jan. 10 to 13, Tina San Augustine our Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Legal Administrative Specialist

Veterans Outreach set from Jan. 10 to 13

wealth of the Northern Marianas Islands will be on Tinian and Saipan for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits. She will 4:30pm,

be also entertaining your questions and assist you with your claims.

■ Tinian: Jan. 10-11, 8:30am-Tinian Municipal Council's Office

■ Saipan: Jan. 12-13, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill, Building 1364.

If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, please call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID

ITB11-GOV-014

Replacement of Air Conditioning System Condenser Units at the Adult Correctional Facility, Susupe Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Replacement of Air Conditioning System Condenser Units at theAdult Correctional Facility, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 9:00AM ChST at the project site, Tekken Street on Route 33, Susupe, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST January 21, 2011 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. Sealed bids must be marked "ITB11-GOV-014". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids

must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 AM ChST February 08, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 AM ChST February 08, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 08, 2011 and must be received no later than February 18, 2011 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST February 21, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 AM ChST February 08, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must posses a certificate of authority to conduct business in the CNMI and certification that the value or its unencumbered assets (exclusive or all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the amount or each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars (\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Procurement and Supply, DOF

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director /s/ Ramon C. Mafnas, Commissioner Department of Corrections

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID **CUC-IFB-11-016**

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies for the CUC Saipan, Tinian and Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-016, Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than January 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST) at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the goods, based on bids for "Commodity Groups"

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on Friday, January 14, 2011 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

> ABE UTU MALAE Executive Director

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 **21**

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Panel: Massive oil spill could happen again

(AP)—Decisions WASHINGTON intended to save time and money created an unreasonable amount of risk that triggered the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, a disaster that could happen again without significant reforms by industry and government, the presidential panel investigating the BP blowout concluded Wednesday. The commission findings—the result of a probe requested by President Barack Obama after the April 20 rig explosion—described systemic problems within the offshore energy industry and government regulators who oversee it. Poor decisions led to technical problems that the commission, and inquires by BP and Congress, have identified as contributing to the accident that killed 11 people and led to more than 200 million gallons of oil

spewing from BP's well a mile beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

Service firms grow at fastest pace since 2006

WASHINGTON (AP)—Strong consumer demand pushed a key measure of the economy's service sector to its highest level in more than four years, the latest evidence that the economy is gaining strength and job growth could pick up in the new year. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said Wednesday that its index of service sector activity rose to 57.1 in December. Any reading above 50 indicates growth. Last month's reading was the highest since May 2006 and marked the 12th straight month of expansion for the sector, which employs 80 percent of the work force. The index plummeted to 37.2 in November 2008, at the height of the financial crisis. The sector contracted for all but two months in 2009, then began expanding last year.

Private-payroll report lifts hopes for more jobs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Companies added nearly 300,000 jobs in December, according to an unofficial count by a private payroll firm—more than in any month in the past decade. The news raised hopes that the government's official report Friday on last month's job creation could be a block-buster. While there were reasons to doubt the numbers, the report from Automatic Data Processing, and another showing strength in the nation's service industries, reversed what was shaping up to be an ugly day on Wall Street. It also generated optimism that the un-

employment rate might finally start to fall. Some economists expressed skepticism about ADP's monthly figures because they often don't track the official government employment data. Others said that the report's estimate of job gains was so high that it at least reinforced evidence that hiring is picking up as employers gain more confidence.

Bank of America tests wider account fee choices

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank of America is rolling out a pilot program in three states that will offer its customers menu of checking accounts with a variety of fee options. The nation's largest bank, which does business with half the households in America, is testing in Georgia, Massachusetts and Arizona its plans to offer customers a choice of how they pay for their accounts. The test includes ways to

avoid fees by linking multiple accounts, credit cards and even investment accounts with its Merrill Lynch unit.

NY lawsuit: Clorox misleads in cat litter ads

NEW YORK (AP)—The maker of Arm & Hammer's Super Scoop cat litter has sued The Clorox Co. in federal court in New York, saying Clorox's Fresh Step cat litter is running a disparaging television commercial that will hurt its product. The lawsuit was filed Wednesday. It seeks unspecified damages and a court order to stop the Clorox commercial from airing. In the lawsuit the Princeton, N.J.-based Church & Dwight Co. Inc. says its Super Scoop product is maligned because the advertisement shows cats rejecting and refusing to use its litter box. It says its own research contradicts those results.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2010-013

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX GYMNASIUM** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning January 10, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM20080001 for the Mariana Islands.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at the Susupe Sports Complex Gymnasium project site in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked NMHC IFB 2010-013. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2011 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than Tuesday, February 8, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, Wednesday, February 9, 2011. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Rehabilitation of the Susupe Sports Complex Gymnasium". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane NMHC Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer /s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director





Northern Marianas College

PRESIDENT

Updated Dec. 23, 2010

The Northern Marianas College is currently accepting applications for the position of President. The President of the Northern Marianas College serves as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located in three separate islands (Saipan, main campus; Rota and Tinian). The President will report to the Board of Regents and will be expected to carry out the mission of the College:

The mission of Northern Marianas College shall be to provide the best quality and meaningful post secondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a whole. The College shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of adult and continuing education, post secondary and adult vocational education and professional development for the people of the Commonwealth.

Minimum Qualifications:

Master's degree from a U.S. accredited university plus five (5) years of executive level management experience in an institution of higher education or other relevant organization, or a combination of at least five (5) years of executive level management including post-secondary education teaching experience; experience working in a multicultural environment; experience in accreditation process, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning, and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building; and knowledge of federal programs and grants application in higher education.

Preference will be given to applicants that meet or exceed the following:

- 1. Doctoral degree holders in education administration or related fields from a US accredited institution (other terminal degree holders will be considered); and
- Five years or more experience in an executive position in higher education administration or related fields; and
- 3. Three years or more of teaching experience in postsecondary education; and
- 4. Knowledge of technology used in higher education; and
- 5. Considerable experience with Asia-Pacific island cultures.

The salary for the position is \$80,000 per annum plus benefits. Applications will be reviewed immediately. Applicants with non-U.S. degrees are responsible for providing an official evaluation of their degrees to determine U.S. equivalency.

Applicants should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and references. **The target date for applications is January 15, 2011** - Please submit application immediately. Complete application packages and documents may be sent electronically to searches@acct.org and a paper copy must also be mailed to:

Dr. Narcisa Polonio, Vice President Association of Community Colleges Trustees 1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 301 Washington, DC 20036

For additional information, nominations or confidential inquiries contact Dr. Narcisa Polonio, ACCT, Vice President for Education, Research and Board Leadership Services, 202-276-1983 (mobile) or npolonio@acct.org

For more information about this position and about NMC, visit www.nmcnet.edu or www.acct.org

22 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

New Speaker Boehner leads House

WASHINGTON

(AP)— Claiming power beneath the Capitol dome, resurgent Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives on Wednesday as the 112th Congress convened in an era of economic uncertainty. Dozens of tea party-backed lawmakers took office in both houses, eager to cut spending and reduce government's reach.

"The people voted to end business as usual, and today we begin carrying out their instructions," said newly elected House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, replacing Democrat Nancy Pelosi and transformed instantly into the nation's most powerful Republican in a new era of divided government.

Both the House and the Senate convened at the constitutionally mandated hour of noon for a day of pageantry and bipartisan flourishes that contrasted sharply with the fierceness of the midterm elections that set the new roll of lawmakers.

In the Senate, where Democrats retain control, Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada selected retired Republican Sen. Paul Laxalt to accompany him when he took the oath for a new

term. In the House, children and grandchildren squirmed in the laps of their elders, less than transfixed at the historic events unfolding around them.

Republicans hold a 242-193 conservatives' majority in the House and have pledged to challenge President Barack Obama both with legislation and with their power to investigate. The first salvo is expected next week, a bill to repeal the sweeping health care law that Democrats pushed to passage 10 months ago and have vowed to defend.

Reid signaled as much, and more, in a speech marking the



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio hugs outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. after receiving the gavel during the first session of the 112th Congress, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011.

beginning of a new two-year Congress. "We have to do even more to help middle-class families, to create jobs, to hasten our energy independence, to improve our children's education and to fix our broken immigration system," he said.

Within a few hours of the opening gavel, Democrats unveiled a plan to limit the ability of Republicans to filibuster their legislation. No resolution is expected for weeks.

Sixteen blocks away, Obama seemed content to renew old battles in some areas at the same time he calls for bipartisanship in others. The White House resubmitted numerous appointments left over from 2010 for Senate confirmation, including four nominees for federal judgeships blocked by Republicans last year.

Senate Republicans gained six seats in last fall's elections, and their leader, Sen. Mitch Mc-Connell of Kentucky, said the voters had made it clear they 'want lawmakers to cut Washington, tackle the debt, rein in government and to help create the right conditions for private sector growth."

The day's events unfolded as the economy, which was the dominant issue in the elections, showed signs of increased strength as it emerges from the worst recession in eight decades. Even so, unemployment remains at nearly 10 percent, a historically high level, and a problem that politicians of both parties have vowed to tackle.

Additionally, instead of merely opposing Obama's every proposal, as they did in 2009 and 2010, House Republicans in particular must compromise with him if they are to show results in their drive to cut spending. Yet their eagerness to vote quickly on repealing the health care bill is in line with a no-compromise position articulated by the tea party forces that helped propel many GOP challengers to victory.

For his part, Obama will be forced to compromise with Republicans, much as he did in last month's lame duck session of Congress when compromise legislation was approved to avert an increase in income taxes, enact a cut in Social Security taxes and extend jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed.

"The big changes today are of course happening across the dome," McConnell said in his remarks, "and I'd like to welcome the many new Republican members of Congress who've come to Washington to change the way things are done around here." With that, he walked across the Capitol to witness Boehner's moment of triumph.

Given to displays of emotion, Boehner paused to dab at his eyes with a handkerchief as he made his way to the speaker's rostrum. His was an unlikely ascension, capping two decades in Congress in which the 61-yearold Ohioan held and then lost a leadership position when Republicans were last in a majority. He re-emerged as leader of a dispirited minority in 2006.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@plicom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09,** will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as followes: Saipan International Airport Restroom Renovations and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09" and submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011, to the office of the Executive Director at he Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **three hundred sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest hidder will be rejected.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00 am, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities. Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than <u>ten percent (10%)</u> of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works

Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

December 14, 2010

Date:

JOSE R. LIFOIFOI Board Chairman/Contracting Offier /s/

ACROSS THE NATION

Neb. vice principal dies after shooting by student

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—The son of a police detective opened fire at a Nebraska high school Wednesday, fatally wounding the assistant principal and forcing panicked students to take cover in the kitchen of the building just as they returned from holiday break. The gunman, who had attended the school for no more than two months, also wounded the principal before fleeing from the scene and fatally shooting himself in his car about a mile away. Authorities declined to speculate about why the suspect, identified as 17-year-old Robert Butler Jr., targeted the administrators.

Man in custody following standoff at Arizona mall

CHANDLER, Ariz. (AP)—A shootout at an upscale shopping center in suburban Phoenix sent shoppers fleeing and prompted a mall lockdown Wednesday as the suspect who had exchanged gunfire with officers holed up in a fast food restaurant, authorities said. The suspect surrendered

Wednesday afternoon and no injuries were reported, officials said. Hours after the noon-hour parking lot gunbattle, authorities reopened the Chandler Fashion Center following a search that had been made to confirm only one suspect was involved in both the shooting and the standoff.

Ore. police chief killed in struggle with suspect

RAINIER, Ore. (AP)—The popular police chief of a small Oregon town was shot to death Wednesday while investigating a report of an attempted car theft at a strip mall, authorities said. The suspect was wounded by gunfire shortly afterward after several officers rushed to the scene. The killing of Rainier Police Chief Ralph Painter, 55, stunned the town of 1,800 along the Columbia River, which had never before lost an officer in the line of duty. "Ralph Painter has been here for over 20 years and worked his way up through the ranks from police officer to sergeant to police chief," said Mayor Jerry Cole. "It's like the dream job, or dream town, for a police officer. He'll be missed greatly."

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 **23**

World

NKorea calls for unconditional talks with South

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)— North Korea called Wednesday for "unconditional and early" talks with rival South Korea to put an end to months of tensions. Seoul quickly dismissed the offer as insincere and said it's waiting for an apology for two deadly attacks blamed on Pyongyang.

It's rare for North Korea to issue such a statement addressed to South Korea and it came as the U.S. envoy on the North was in the region to discuss the standoff. Earlier in the day, Stephen Bosworth sought

WORLD BRIEFS

to calm fears of conflict on the peninsula.

Tensions between the two Koreas have been at their highest level in years since North Korea showered artillery on a South Korean-held island near their disputed maritime border in November, killing four South Koreans. The attack was the first on a civilian area since the 1950-53 Korean War, and occurred in waters not far from the spot where a torpedo sank a South Korean warship eight months early, killing 46 sailors.

That attack was also blamed



South Korean protesters with portraits of U.S. special envoy on North Korea, Stephen Bosworth shout slogans during a rally against the United States and South Korean government's policies on North Korea in front of the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011.

New storms soak flood-weary Australia communities

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—New thunderstorms brought more pounding rains to a waterlogged coastal community in northeastern Australia on Thursday, as the mayor of one city said it could take a year to fully recover from the worst flooding in decades. The good news for the nearly 200,000 exhausted flood victims is that the crisis finally appeared to be easing. Despite the fresh rains, an overflowing river in the inundated city of Rockhampton began slowly receding Thursday. The swollen Fitzroy River has spilled onto 3,000 properties throughout the city, leaving 200 homes with muddy water above the floorboards.

Cleric who fought US returns to Iraq from exile

NAJAF, Iraq (AP)—Radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, a fierce opponent of the United States and head of Irag's most feared militia, came home Wednesday after nearly four years in self-imposed exile in Iran, welcomed by hundreds of cheering supporters in a return that solidifies the rise of his movement. Al-Sadr's presence in Iraq ensures he will be a powerful voice in Iraqi politics as U.S. forces leave the country. He left Iraq in 2007 somewhat as a renegade, a firebrand populist whose militiamen battled American troops and Iraqi forces. He returns a more legitimized figure, leading an organized political movement that is a vital partner in the new government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Siberian tiger attacks, kills bus driver in China

BEIJING (AP)—A rare Siberian tiger attacked and killed a tour bus driver in northern China while the man's horrified passengers watched, Chinese media reported. The tiger pounced on driver Jin Shijun and dragged him into the forest after he got out to check on his bus, which was stuck in the snow at the world's largest Siberian tiger breeding base in the northern province of Heilongjiang, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

France confirms explosion at its embassy in Mali

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—An unidentified assailant hurled a homemade bomb and fired several gunshots at the French embassy in Mali's capital late Wednesday, wounding two Malian citizens. The blast from the explosive device appeared to be small, however, and caused only minor damage to an outer gate of the building. Hammadoun Billal Traore, a police officer in Bamako, said the explosive was a small gas cylinder. He said the attacker lit it and threw it toward an entrance to the embassy. The man then fired off several shots with a pistol before being detained by security forces.

calling for warmer ties and the on the North—and allegation talks to restart. Washington and

the country vehemently denies. But the North has made some conciliatory moves recently. On New Year's Day, the government issued a lengthy statement

resumption of joint projects with South Korea. Pyongyang, eager for food and fuel assistance, has said it wants stalled international aid-for-nuclear-disarmament President Lee Myung-bak

Seoul have said the North must first fulfill past nuclear disarmament commitments.

On Monday, South Korean

vowed to increase his country's defenses but made clear the door was open for talks with Pyongyang and was willing to enhance economic cooperation between the rivals. On Wednesday, North Korean officials responded with their own call for negotiations.

"We are ready to meet anyone anytime and anywhere, letting bygones be bygones, if he or she is willing to go hands in hands with us," said a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency. It added that history has shown that such confrontations can only lead to an "armed clash and war."

South Korea's Unification Ministry immediately rebuffed the overtures late Wednesday.

"We don't consider it as a sincere offer of dialogue," ministry spokeswoman Lee Jongjoo said. North Korea first must apologize for the two attacks and take "sincere" steps toward nuclear disarmament, she said.

Egypt's Christians fear new attack on holiday

(AP)—Egyptian Christians say they fear a repeat attack against their community on Coptic Christmas Eve Thursday despite authorities planning heavy security following a New Year's suicide bombing of a church in Alexandria that killed 21.

In response to the threats against the Christians by extremists, Egyptian activists have called on Muslims to form human shields in front of the churches on Christmas Eve as gesture of solidarity with country's Coptic Christian minority, which makes up 10 percent of Egypt's 80 million people.

The bombing of the church, the worst act of sectarian violence in the country in a decade, touched off days of demonstrations and riots by the Christians blaming the government for encouraging discrimination and prejudice and not doing enough to protect them.

Some Christians have even said they will skip Thursday's Christmas Eve services for fear that there will be more attacks.

"I had a fight with my mother. She kept saying no churches this year. I wanted to go but my parents are afraid something might happen again," said Karim Monier, a 19-year-old student living in the middle-class neighborhood of Hadayak Helwan in southern Cairo.

Egyptian authorities have beefed up security around many churches all over country, with explosives experts on hand. Armored vehicles will be stationed in main squares in case of emergency.

The Interior Ministry on Wednesday released to the public a composite photo of what is said was the one remaining victim out of the 21 dead who has not yet been identified. The ministry asked for anyone who recognized the face to report the identity to authorities, apparently aiming to determine whether he could be the bomber. Police said the face in the photo had been pieced together from remains, and parts of the image appeared digitally manipulated to fill in gaps.



SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2011 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"CAMPUS WIDE COMPUTER REPLACEMENT PLAN FOR THE **NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE"**

BID PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZE, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_campuswide_computers@recovery.gov.mp.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID IFB-NMC-035

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 07, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF A VIDEO

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT FOR THE

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE"

BID PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZE, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_video_surveillance@recovery.gov.mp.

A MANDATORY SITE INSPECTION AND PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE NMC PROCUREMENT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 2ND FLOOR, BUILDING L.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

/s/ LORRAINE T. CABRERA INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



"COMPUTER REPLACEMENT PLAN FOR THE NORTHERN **MARIANAS COLLEGE**"

BID PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZE, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_computer_replacement@recovery.gov.mp.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ LORRAINE T. CABRERA INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

/s/ LORRAINE T. CABRERA INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PORTFOLIO/SECURITIES **MONITORING SERVICES**

SERVICES REQUIRED

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requests proposals from legal counsel(s) with significant experience and expertise in evaluating, monitoring and carrying out securities fraud litigation for public/private trust and/or pension plans. The monitoring, evaluation advice and counseling services would be offered at NO

Interested firms are asked to submit proposals outlining their ability to serve in the roles of monitoring, evaluation and litigation counsel

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The services requested will include but not limited to:

- Monitor MPLT's investments for any losses that may have occurred as a result of a violation or potential violation of securities laws or a breach of any duty owned to the Trust
- Provide legal research, analysis, advice and guidance with respect to securities law;
- Provide MPLT with securities monitoring and administration services that will provide MPLT with expert legal advice and litigation-related services:
- Be responsive on a "as needed" basis to confer with and provide recommendations to MPLT regarding case status, strategies, and potential settlement or other resolution of cases

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

One original and Five copies of the sealed clearly marked "Portfolio Monitoring Services Proposal" RFP 11-01, shall be submitted to the attention of Mr. Phillip Mendiola-Long, MPLT Chairman, P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Monday, January 31, 2011.

If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Barbara Reyes during the hours stated above. The RFP is also available online at www.mplt.gov.mp.

PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG

24 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Off The Wall

Homeless man's voice prompts job offers

CLEVELAND (AP)—With a deep, refined voice, Ted Williams simply asked for help to get off the streets. He's been heard. Left homeless after his life and career were ruined by drugs and alcohol, Williams has been offered a job by the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and is being pursued by NFL Films for possible work. He and his compelling tale became an online sensation after The Columbus Dispatch posted a clip of Williams demonstrating his voiceover skills by the side of the road.

"This has been totally, totally amazing," Williams said in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, his voice choking with emotion. "I'm just so thankful. God has blessed me so deeply. I'm getting a second chance. Amazing."

Williams was contacted Wednesday by the Cavaliers, who have offered him a position that could include announcing work at Quicken Loans Arena, the team's downtown facility. Williams said the team has offered him a two-year contract and said they would pay his living expenses.

"I can't believe what's going on," said Williams, a father of nine, adding he feels like Susan Boyle, the Scottish singing sensation who became an overnight star. "God gave me a milliondollar voice, and I just hope I can do right by him."

It's been a whirlwind for the golden-voiced man, who was recently living in a tent and whose past includes a lengthy list of arrests. He has served time in prison for theft and forgery and has been cited with numerous misdemeanors, including drug abuse.

Williams was most recently arrested on May 14. He pleaded



In this photo taken in late December, 2010, Ted Williams holds a sign advertising his smooth radio voice near a highway ramp in Columbus,

guilty to a first-degree misdemeanor theft charge. In court records, his address is listed as "Streets of Columbus."

Upon learning of Williams' criminal history, the Cavaliers said their offer still stands.

"We believe in second chances and second opportunities," said Tracy Marek, the team's senior vice president of marketing. "The gentleman deserves an opportunity to explain certain situations. We're not jumping to conclusions. It's not fair."

Cavaliers spokesman Tad Carper said exact details of the team's offer and their plans to help Williams with housing were still being worked out.

The Cavaliers did not know much about him, but were touched by Williams' ordeal.

"When you know something's right, you just have to launch," Marek said. "One of the big things that we talk about here, with our organization, is how important urgency is—when you see something that feels good and seems right. The important thing that we wanted to do is to let Ted know that we have something here for him."

The 53-year-old Williams is scheduled to appear Thursday on NBC's "Today" show and planned to fly to New York later Wednesday to see his 90-year-old mother, who lives in Brooklyn and has stood by him during his battles with addiction.

"She has always been my best friend," he said, crying. "When I was a kid, she would take me down to Radio City Music Hall and on the subway. I'm just glad that she is still around. I prayed that she would live long enough that I could make her proud and see could her son do something other than stand along the side of the road with a sign asking for money."

Julia Williams is thrilled her only child is turning his life around. She can't wait to see him.

"This will be my day to see my son get up and do something to help himself," she said. "He has so much talent. I hope this will be the thing for him. He came from a nice family. And then he went poor, poor. So, maybe this will build him up and let him see that there's more in life than hanging around with the wrong people, and taking drugs."

Science & Technology

Asus bets on variety of forms to win tablet fans

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Taiwan's Asus Tek Computer Inc. plans to start selling an array of tablet computers—including hybrids that sit somewhere between a laptop and a tablet—with the hope that variety is the best weapon against Apple Inc.'s iPad and other similar gadgets.

Asus chairman Jon-

ney Shih unveiled the new devices Tuesday ahead of the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. They included the Eee Pad Transformer, which is a laptop that splits in two to function as a tablet, and the Eee Pad Slider, a tablet with a keyboard that slides out of its left side.



This product image provided by AsusTek Computer Inc. shows the Eee Pad Slider, a tablet computer with a keyboard that slides out of its left side.

"We admire companies like Apple that offer great innovation, but they provide very limited choices for the customers," Shih said. "Different kinds of customers have different kinds of needs, and the best way to better serve them is to provide choice."

Asus, which essentially created the market for low-price netbooks with the 2007 launch of the Eee PC line, will need this strategy to pan out if consumers gravitate toward tablets as quickly as analysts expect. And Asus won't just be contending with the iPad: The company is just one of many big names expected to unveil tablets at CES.

Analysts believe the iPad will still account for the bulk of the 55 million tablets that Gartner Inc. expects will be shipped this year, but there's still room for rivals to vie for sales of the remaining 10 million to 15 million devices.

TV makers to put out 3-D sets with cheaper glasses

LAS VEGAS (AP)—TV makers are blaming disappointing sales of 3-D TVs last year in part on the bulky glasses they came with. They're trying to tackle that this year by introducing sets that work with lighter, cheaper glasses of the kind used in movie theaters.

Manufacturers don't plan to completely supplant the 3-D TVs that require the heavier, battery-powered glasses, which went on sale last year for the first time. But Samsung Electronics Co. estimates 1 million 3-D sets were sold in the U.S in 2010, far short of its initial estimate of 3 million to 4 million, and the introduction

of a competing technology a year later is another sign that the first 3-D TVs didn't live up to expectations.

LG Electronics Inc. was the first major TV to announce new 3-D sets Wednesday, a day ahead of the opening of the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. LG, a South Korean company, said it will start selling two models, a 47-inch and a 65-inch one, later this year that use the lighter, cheaper glasses. Each will include four pairs. Current 3-D sets usually include one or two pairs of the bulkier glasses; some don't include any, requiring consumers to pay about \$100 per pair.

"We're meeting consumers' needs by eliminating some of the pain points" by addressing the 3-D glasses issue, said Tim Alessi, director of new product development at LG Electronics USA. "It's going to be the most comfortable viewing experience, just like going to the movies."

Vizio Inc., one of the largest sellers of TVs in the U.S. but not a leader in the high end of the market, which includes 3-D sets, announced in December that it would sell a 65-inch 3-D set with the lighter glasses.

The two types of glasses are called "active" and "passive," and each has its benefits and drawbacks.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Fla. man says he'll live in lions' den for 30 days SPRING HILL, Fla. (AP)—

A Florida man says he's going to spend the next month living in a fenced enclosure with two African lions. James Jablon of Spring Hill hopes the stunt will raise money for his wildlife center, Wildlife Rehabilitation of Hernando. Jablon entered the lions' den Saturday. He says he's going to sleep on hay near the lions named Lea and Ed and eat when they eat. He says he's also going to build a place to sleep and hide in the trees in the enclosure, in case the lions fight with each other. His adventure is being streamed live online through January 31. About 100 animals live at the center about 40 miles north of Tampa. It was started for native wildlife needing medical treatment, but Jablon says he's now being asked to provide homes for exotic pets.

Ill. mom gives birth to 1 twin in 2010, 1 in 2011

ROCKFORD, III. (AP)—A northern Illinois couple welcomed their new daughter to the world in the last minute of 2010—and a twin son in the first minute of 2011. Ashley Fansler gave birth to Madisen Carin Lewis at 11:59 p.m. on New Year's Eve in Machesney Park, 85 miles northwest of Chicago. Aiden Everette Lewis was born a minute later, at 12 a.m. on New Year's Day. The Rockford Register Star reports that Fansler wasn't due until the end of January but doctors at Rockford Memorial Hospital scheduled a cesarean section for Friday evening to avoid complications. The father, Brandon Lewis, says one of the doctors was counting the minutes down before the births. Lewis says it was "definitely the best" New Year's countdown he's had.

Idaho police: Man stole cop car to be deported

JEROME, Idaho (AP)-Police in Idaho say a man who asked authorities to arrest and deport him to Mexico stole a squad car after his request was denied. The Idaho Mountain Express reports that 38-yearold Guadalupe Cruz-Vasquez went to the Jerome County Sheriff's office Monday night and demanded to be deported. Police Sgt. Duane Rubink says authorities declined to take the Jerome resident into custody, so he walked to a nearby police station, broke the window of a squad car and drove away with the vehicle. Rubink says a cell phone inside the vehicle helped police track its location near Carey, but police didn't need to stop it: The car ran out of gas. He says after that, Cruz-Vasquez finally got his wish.

TECHNOLOGY BRIEFS

Facebook agrees to modify terms for states

DENVER (AP)—Facebook has agreed to modify its terms and conditions for agencies within states across the country, removing obstacles in resolving legal issues that arise from using the social networking site. Changes announced Wednesday by Colorado Attorney General John Suthers include striking an indemnity clause that requires users to pay legal fees to Facebook for harm or loss, unless a state's constitution allows it. Other changes include removing a provision that requires resolving legal disputes with Facebook in California courts, calling for the prominent display of a state agency's website on their Facebook page and encourage amicable resolution to disputes.

Motorola unveils 4G Android tablet for Verizon

LAS VEGAS (AP)-Motorola Mobility Inc. is rolling out to roll out a tablet computer that will run on Verizon Wireless' new next-generation wireless network and use an upcoming version of Google Inc.'s Android software designed for such devices. CEO Sanjay Jha showed off the Xoom along with several upcoming smart phones during a news conference Wednesday in advance of the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The tablet will come with a 10.1-inch high-definition screen, dual-core processor, front-facing camera for video chatting and a 5-megapixel camera that can take high-definition videos. It will support Flash video content-something Apple Inc.'s iPad does not do-and can work as a WiFi hotspot to connect up to five more gadgets to the Internet.

Skype says software to blame for 24-hour outage

SEATTLE (AP)—Skype SA says a software glitch caused the Internet calling and messaging service's major outage last week. In a blog post Wednesday, chief information officer Lars Rabbe said the 24-hour outage that cut service for millions of users stemmed from a problem in a version of Skype's software for computers running Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system. Rabbe said the issue, which began last Wednesday, started when some servers running offline instant messaging overloaded. An older version of Skype's Windows software improperly processed delayed responses from these servers, crashing Skype for about 20 percent of users.

Royal wedding update: Archbishop in key role

LONDON (AP)—The bride will arrive by car and leave in a carriage, as befits a newly minted princess.

Those key details and others about the upcoming nuptials of Prince William and Kate Middleton emerged Wednesday in advance of their April 29 wedding at Westminster Abbey.

Prince Charles' representative broke weeks of silence with a statement that Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams will marry the couple in an 11 a.m. ceremony that will include several other prominent clergy.

The wedding of William—a young Navy helicopter rescue pilot who is second in line for the throne—and Middleton, his girlfriend and confidante for nearly eight years, is expected to draw a gigantic global audience via television and the Internet.

The palace also lifted the secrecy surrounding the processional route the newlyweds will take from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace-information deemed vital to those hoping to get out early and catch a glimpse of the couple as they glide by in a horse-drawn carriage.

The parade route, likely to be thronged by well-wishers regardless of the weather, will take William and Middleton through the storied heart of



In this Nov. 16, 2010 file photo, Britain's Prince William and his fiancee Kate Middleton pose for the media at St. James's Palace in London, after they announced their engagement.

ceremonial London, where so many joyous and solemn occasions have been marked.

Palace officials said Queen Elizabeth II, William's grandmother, would host a reception at Buckingham Palace after the wedding ceremony, with guests drawn from the wedding congregation.

not been released, but palace officials said it will be drawn from members of the wedding congregation who make up both the couple's official and private lives.

The night of the wedding, Prince Charles is to host a dinner and dance at Buckingham Palace for family members and The reception guest list has close friends of the newlyweds.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE Michael Thomas Conley December 13, 1946 — October 12, 2010 Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy — your cards, emails, prayers, and presence at Mike's memorial service. Your support has been a comfort and greatly appreciated. **Linda Conley & Family**

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of our dearly beloved

Mariano Kogure Dela Cruz

Born to Life: January 17, 1981 Date joined our savior: January 2, 2011

In his new life, he now joins his:

Grandmother **Reared Grandparents:**

Ana Terlaje Cogure Mariano F. & Maria E. Aquino

Uncle:

Quirino E. Aquino

Grandfather in-law:

Isidro Kapileo Peter

Grandmother in-law:

Concepcion R. Pua

His love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of his: Wife:

Daughter: Mother:

Rosario Camacho Peter "Charu' Miah-Renisha Jolicia Peter Dela Cruz Josephine Kogure Dela Cruz Piao

Sister and Spouse: Parents in-law:

Tina Dela Cruz and Robert Pangelinan (Drake and Danica) Emery Limes Peter and Tricia Blas Camacho

Brothers and sisters in-law:

Joyce Ruben, Bradford John/Abigail Iginoef (Rio'Monicia), Raymond Anthony /

Grandparents: Grandparents in-law:

Jerika Laniyo (Kivey Ann), Ramona Nonata / Richard Manalo, Carlicia Ruben Francisco M. and Myet Dela Cruz Rosa Limes Peter / Calistro Ruben

Reared Grandfather in-law:

Francisco / Lourdes Camacho 'Beba' Eulogio L. Pua

Godparents: Uncles and Aunts: Herman and Tomasa Ada (Baptism), Wence Aquino (Confirmation) Alice C. / Roger Galang & children, Cynthia D./ Ambrose Pushparag & children,

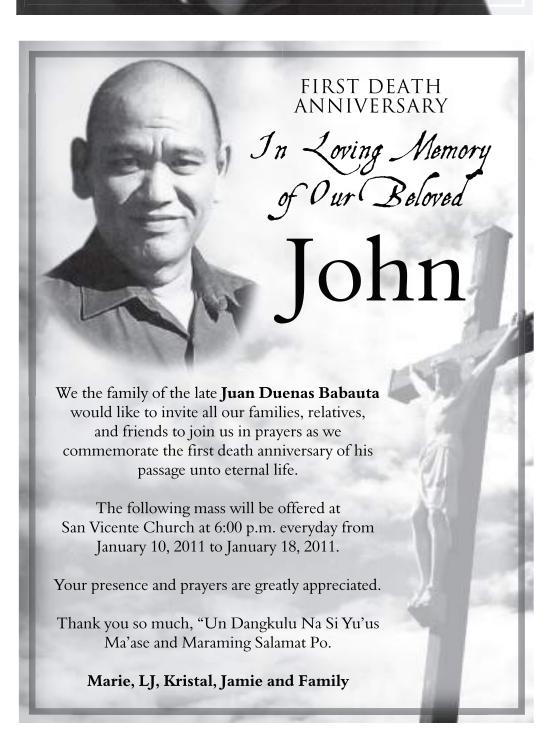
Francisco Dela Cruz, Lou D. / Bob Lloyd & family, Joseph / Virginia Dela Cruz & children, Bernie / Jim Clevenger & children, Lucia D. / Vicente Torres & children, Erokolano / Mary Ann Dela Cruz & children, Rudy Dela Cruz & son, Regino / Rosanna Aquino & children, Daniel E. Aquino & children, Juan / Mary Lee Aquino & children, †Libera T. / Dennis Aichi & children, Neiar Aquino & children, Rosa S. Aquino & children, and Remedio E. / Pedro Pua & children.

He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.

Holy Eucharist is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm followed by the Holy Rosary until Saturday, January 8, 2011. On Sunday, January 9, 2011 Holy Eucharist will be offered at 7:00 a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary. On Monday, January 10, 2011, his remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel to San Antonio Church at 7:00 a.m. for Responso, Holy Rosary, and viewing. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist will be offered at 11:00 a.m. followed by the internment of his final resting place at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

We extend our sincerest humble gratitude for all your prayers and love.

From Josephine, Rosario, Miah, and Family.



No prison time sought in Anna Nicole Smith case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors in the Anna Nicole Smith prescription drug case are urging a judge to choose felony probation, community service and fines rather than prison for her psychiatrist and lawyer-boyfriend convicted of obtaining drugs for her under false names.

On the eve of their scheduled sentencing, lawyers for Dr. Khristine Eroshevich and Howard K. Stern want something different. They are asking to have their clients' convictions reduced to misdemeanors or dismissed in the interest of justice.

They argue in written motions that using pseudonyms to protect the privacy of celebrities in medical situations is common practice. They accuse the district attorney's office of singling out the doctor and lawyer for prosecution "for political and publicity purposes, not justice."

Superior Court Judge Robert Perry, who presided over their nine-week trial, has the option to sentence them to up to three years and eight months behind bars at a hearing Thursday.

In a sentencing memorandum filed Tuesday, Deputy District Attorney Sean Carney advocated sentencing both defendants to five years of supervised felony probation, 300 hours each of community service, with Stern working for Caltrans, California's highway maintenance de-



In this Dec. 11, 2009 photo, Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer and exboyfriend, Howard K. Stern leaves Los Angeles Superior Court after a hearing of the conspiracy trial of Stern, Sandeep Kapoor and Dr. Khristine Eroshevich.

partment. The memo suggested Eroshevich's community service be directed by the California Medical Board and that each defendant pay a \$5,000 fine.

Carney also asked that Eroshevich be barred from prescribing controlled substances, severely limiting her ability to continue practicing medicine.

Stern and Eroshevich are seeking dismissal, a new trial or reduction of their convictions to misdemeanors. A third defendant, Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, was acquitted of all charges and the jury dead-

locked on several counts.

Stern's attorneys, Steve Sadow and J. Christopher Smith, noted in written motions that Stern was convicted of only two of 11 counts involving conspiring with Eroshevich to use his name on prescriptions for Smith.

"The evidence proved that Mr. Stern honestly believed the practice was legal," said the motion, which noted past use of false names on prescriptions for celebrities including the late Michael Jackson and actress Brittany Murphy. It said their doctors

were never charged with violating the false names statute.

The sentencing hearing will mark the denouement of a long-running drama centering on the blonde beauty's troubled life, which was documented on reality TV, in tabloids and in trial testimony. Smith also made headlines in a continuing \$300 million court fight with the estate of her oil tycoon husband.

Stern, 41, had been Smith's lawyer, manager, lover and friend since they met in 2001. Testimony showed they were inseparable, even when she was involved with other men. The trial documented their romantic odyssey and the birth of a baby Stern once thought was his. DNA tests confirmed photographer Larry Birkhead was the father.

Eroshevich, Smith's friend, neighbor and psychiatrist, rushed to her side in the Bahamas after Smith's son died of a drug overdose and she went into an emotional decline.

Smith died after suffering a drug overdose in a Florida hotel room in 2007. The death was ruled an accident and the California defendants were not charged with causing her death.

Smith's physical and emotional problems were the subject of exhaustive testimony as prosecutors sought to paint the defendants as enablers who fed Smith's addiction to prescription pain killers. But the jury rejected most of the charges, accepting defense arguments that Smith was not an addict but a woman with chronic pain.

The jury also appeared to reject prosecution claims that the defendants were dazzled by Smith's glamor and filled her demands for prescription drugs to protect their insider status in her personal life and her celebrity world.

Attorney Bradley Brunon, who represents Eroshevich, 63, said in a written motion that she acted in good faith, and "with proper medical motives to assist a fragile and suffering person."

Brunon said Eroshevich acknowledges that "she could have done things differently and perhaps better."

"Dr. Eroshevich accepts this and would rewrite history if she could," said the motion, calling it her only inappropriate action in a 30-year medical career.

Along with conspiracy, Eroshevich was convicted of unlawfully obtaining Vicodin by fraud. The jury deadlocked on whether she unlawfully prescribed the drug.

Prosecutors strongly opposed reduction of charges to misdemeanors and said there is "ample evidence to support the verdicts."

Eroshevich and Stern also may face revocation of their professional licenses.

by the Army just as the Korean

Conflict was picking up. He's

with Romanelli, his decision to

lend his creation's image was

"He was so enthusiastic and

so bubbling over with ideas ...

we couldn't resist," he said. "It's

The Real McCoy's Tsujimoto,

known for curating military ap-

parel and gear, to ensure that the

designs had levels of authentic-

"Hitoshi is the best of the best

in resurrecting classic styles," Ro-

manelli said. "He'll spend weeks

on weeks finding the best material

to match his original production.

Romanelli worked

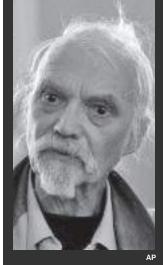
ity throughout them.

Walker said when he met

been on post ever since.

immediate.

fun."



Swedish actor Per Oscarsson seen in this Jan. 5, 2000 file picture during a recording of the TV series Mr. Von Hancken. Police say a house fire appears to have killed Swedish actor Per Oscarsson, who starred in movies based on Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy, and his wife.

Swedish actor Per Oscarsson confirmed dead in fire

STOCKHOLM (AP)— Swedish police on Wednesday confirmed that actor Per Oscarsson, who won a best actor award at Cannes in 1966 and appeared in films based on Stieg Larsson's "Millennium" trilogy died in a fire at his house.

Spokesman Ulf Edberg said remains found in Oscarsson's house had been identified as belonging to the 83-year-old actor and his wife, 67-year-old Kia Ostling. The building, remotely located outside the town of Skara in southwest Sweden, burnt to the ground early Friday. Only the chimney was left when firefighters arrived at the scene.

Edberg said the cause of the blaze remains unknown.

Oscarsson won the best actor award at the 1966 Cannes Film Festival for his role as starving writer Pontus in the movie "Hunger." During his career he starred in more than 100 Swedish films and TV series.

Most recently, he appeared in the Swedish film "The Girl Who Played With Fire" based on Larsson's popular book. He played Holger Palmgren, the legal guardian to the heroine, Lisbeth Salander.

In his review of the film, U.S. critic Roger Ebert singled out Oscarsson's performance and described him as "a great Swedish actor ... who incredibly never worked with Bergman."

Beetle Bailey goes from funny pages to the runway

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Don't tell Sgt. Snorkel, but perennially put-upon private Beetle Bailey's Army green fatigues are influencing a new collection of limited-edition designer duds.

Arguably the longest-serving private never to have been promoted, Beetle Bailey will get the red carpet treatment next week when a line of clothing and accessories bearing his imprint is unveiled at apparel trade show PROJECT New York.

Working in conjunction with King Features Syndicate, designers Darren Romanelli and Hitoshi Tsujimoto have banded together to develop an Americana-inspired and military-infused collection of jackets, sweaters, T-shirts, hats, shoes, pants and bags.

"It's an Americana type of clothing line. It's real authentic clothes that people wore—jackets, blue jeans and stuff like that," Beetle Bailey creator Mort Walker told The Associated Press Tuesday. "All sweaters, all the stuff that the ordinary guys wear, not the fancy guys."

Those kinds of garments are not uncommon sights on fashion runways, with heritage-inspired and utilitarian looks increasingly en vogue.

But it won't be all fashion for Beetle and Walker, whose tale of a college student turned Army private has been running in





In this undated publicity image released by King Features Syndicate, TM Hearst Holdings, Inc., two Beetle Bailey leather jackets, part of a limited edition collection of Americana-inspired and military-infused apparel by DRx's Darren Romanelli and The Real McCoy's Hitoshi Tsujimoto are shown.

newspapers since 1950. Besides the debut of Romanelli and Tsujimoto's designs, a retrospective of Walker's career drawing and writing about Beetle Bailey and the denizens of Camp Swampy will also be on display.

Romanelli, of the streetwear brand DRx, said the idea of infusing Beetle Bailey into fashion blended both professional curiosity and personal reminiscence.

"I dig deep in the archives of myself of my brain. ... It's always about resurrecting these chapters of past experiences," Romanelli told AP. "I grew up on Beetle. As a kid I remember looking at it in the newspaper."

Given the breadth and reach of Americana-inspired looks, Romanelli said it made sense to incorporate Beetle Bailey into his new collection.

"We started talking about the significant Americana trend that is really massive and global right now," he said. "Americana bleeds over into the military so we looked at Beetle as the perfect whimsical approach to celebrate Americana and the military."

Some of the items include

authentic G1 leather jackets, with Beetle Bailey stitched on the right breast side and, on the back, an image of Gen. Half-track's secretary, Sheila Buxley, sitting atop a bomb beneath the legend "Blonde Bombshell." Another is a button-down shirt in olive green with a picture of Sgt. Snorkel and Beetle Bailey in the midst of a brawl, the words "Rumble In The Jungle" surrounding it.

Beetle Bailey made his debut as a college student on Sept. 4, 1950, and was originally called Spider. In 1951 he was recruited

he'll do whatever it takes so that the piece is authentic."

PROJECT began in 2003 and is held every two years in New York and Las Vegas. The event brings together designers, clothiers and retailers. Its president, Andrew Pollard, said the new collaboration is something that strikes fans of fashion and comic strips.

"This Beetle Bailey collabo-

ration is just the type of project we like to get behind and feel strongly that the design concepts that Darren and Hitoshi have created will not only resonate with fans of the long-running strip but will excite retailers," he said in a statement.

Bodyguard: Jackson doc said to put vials in bag



Security guard Alberto Alvarez, center, and his attorney Carl Douglas, left rear, they leave the preliminary hearing for Michael Jackson's doctor Conrad Murray, charged in the death of the singer, at Los Angeles Superior Court Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As Michael Jackson's lifeless body lay on a bed in his palatial mansion, a bodyguard obeyed a frantic doctor's instructions to bag up medicine bottles and intravenous bags and shield the Jackson children from seeing their father—all before being told to call 911, court testimony revealed Wednesday.

Alberto Alvarez said he was the first security guard to reach Jackson's room after word came that something was wrong. He described a shocking scene.

The King of Pop was on his bed connected to an IV tube and a urinary catheter. His eyes and mouth were open, and Dr. Conrad Murray was leaning over him doing one-handed chest compressions to try to revive him.

Alvarez said he was "frozen" at the sight.

"I said, 'Dr. Murray, what happened?' And he said, 'He had a reaction. He had a bad reaction," Alvarez recalled.

The testimony came during a preliminary hearing to determine if Murray, the singer's personal physician, will be tried on a charge of involuntary man-

Authorities contend Murray gave Jackson a lethal dose of the powerful anesthetic propofol and other sedatives in the bedroom of his rented mansion before he died on June 25, 2009.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said in his opening statement that Jackson was already dead when Murray summoned help and tried to conceal his administering of propofol to the pop star, ordering the bodyguard to collect items before paramedics were called.

Murray was providing Jackson propofol roughly six times a week since being hired as his physician in May 2009, as Jackson prepared for a series of comeback concerts, Walgren said.

In other testimony, paramedic Richard Senneff, who responded to Jackson's mansion the day he died, said Murray never mentioned he had given propofol to the singer. Instead, the doctor said he had given Jackson lorazepam to help him sleep and indicated the pop star was being treated for dehydration, Senneff testified.

The paramedic testified that Murray's responses didn't add up, because the singer looked so pale and thin that Senneff thought he was a hospice patient.

Earlier, Alvarez recalled Jackson's children Paris and Prince walking into the room during the effort to revive their father.

"Paris screamed, 'Daddy!' and she started to cry. Dr. Murray said, 'Get them out. Don't let them see him like this," the bodyguard said.

Alvarez's voice choked as he described Paris crying and he took a moment to compose himself.

Cyrus arrested

"I said, 'children, don't worry, we'll take care of this.' And I escorted them out and left the door ajar," Alvarez said.

In the courtroom audience, Jackson's mother, Katherine, dabbed at her eyes during the most detailed public account yet of events surrounding the death of her son. She came to court with her husband, Joe, and children Randy, Janet and LaToya. They made no eye contact with Murray across the courtroom.

They heard Alvarez testify that he helped Murray bag the medicine and saw an unidentified "white milky substance" in the bottom of an intravenous bag.

"He just grabbed a handful of bottles, or vials, and he instructed me to put them in a bag," Alvarez testified, adding that Murray also told him to place an intravenous bag into another sack.

"Is it true that 911 had not been Alvarez recalled.

called yet?" Walgren asked. "That's true," Alvarez replied.

After collecting everything and bagging it, Alvarez said, Murray told him to call 911. The prosecutor then played a recording of the call.

When the operator said to transfer Jackson to the floor, Alvarez grabbed Jackson's legs and Murray grabbed his upper body. He said at that point he noticed the IV in Jackson's leg that had to be removed. Alvarez also saw that Jackson had the urinary catheter.

Alvarez said Murray then asked him to give Jackson chest compression, while Murray did mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Murray said, "'You know this is the first time I give mouth-to-mouth but I have to do it because he's my friend,""

"Did it appear he was breathing," Walgren asked.

"No sir," Alvarez said.

"His eyes and mouth were open?" the prosecutor asked.

"Yes," the witness said.

"Did he seem to be alive or dead?" Walgren asked.

"Dead, sir," Alvarez said.

In his opening statement Tuesday, Walgren said Murray had waited as long as 21 minutes before paramedics were called and that Jackson had died before help was summoned.

The testimony could support the prosecutors' argument that Murray's actions demonstrated "an extreme deviation from the standard of care" by administering propofol without the proper equipment, and also concealing it and botching efforts to resuscitate the singer.

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Season Of The Witch 4:10 7:10 9:50 Saturday

Sun through Thurs

Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Dominic Sena reenlists his Gone in 60 Seconds star Nicolas Cage on this 14th century supernatural thriller for Relativity Media. As the Black Plague spreads across Europe, a group of knights are enlisted to help give safe passage to a girl whose alleged powers of witchcraft are suspected to be the cause of the deadly

Little Fockers

4:20 7:20 9:40 Friday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40 4:20 7:20 Sun through Thurs 4:20 7:20 Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeer he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comed series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ter years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.

EJY BRIDGES

True Grit

Comedy • Rated PG 13

4:25 7:25 9:35 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 Sun through Thurs 4:25 7:25 Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and anothe lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territor in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young middle control to add the story from the young the control to the story for the story of the st Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin. Josh Brolin co-stars.

Yogi Bear

4:00 7:00 9:30 Friday Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30 1:00 4:00 7:00 Sunday Sun through Thurs 4:00 7:00 Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd



Tron Legacy

4:05 7:05 9:45 Friday Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 Sun through Thurs **Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges** Science, Fiction . Rated PG



1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55 1:30 4:30 7:30 4:30 7:30





The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader 4:15 7:15 10:00

1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00 Saturday Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 Sun through Thurs 4:15 7:15 Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes Fantasy, Children's, Family . Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

Children's, Family • Rated PG

Fighter

Friday Saturday Sunday Sun through Thurs Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale

4:30 7:30 9:55

Drama • Rated R

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A man who bragged about hacking into Miley Cyrus' e-mail account and distributing revealing pictures of her has been arrested on unrelated charges, according to court documents. Josh Holly, 21, was arrested

Thursday in Nashville and charged with possession of unauthorized credit card account numbers after FBI agents reviewed evidence obtained when they searched his computer.

In an FBI affidavit filed with the U.S. District Court in Nashville, Agent Victor Rodriguez writes that Holly acknowledged hacking into Cyrus' MySpace account. Court documents also said he bragged online and to the media about obtaining photos of Cyrus from her Gmail account in late 2007 and later posting them on a site frequented by hackers.

"Holly made numerous admissions during the interview." Rodriguez writes in the affidavit dated January 2009. "He confirmed that he was the person who had obtained data from Miley Cyrus' MySpace account without authorization."

FBI: Man who says he hacked Miley

So far, he does not face charges relating to Cyrus, but the intrusion into her account was used by agents to obtain permision to search his seized computer equipment.

Holly was released on his own recognizance on Monday and has a preliminary hearing set for Jan. 12. No phone listing could be found for him or a relative appointed as his custodian. His attorney didn't immediately return a message left late Tuesday.

Cyrus' publicist had no comment on the arrest.

According to the affidavit, Holly said in media interviews and Internet postings that he first hacked Cyrus' MySpace account around December 2007. He obtained a password from that account and used it to hack her Gmail account, where he obtained revealing photos of her that were subsequently widely distributed on the Internet.

Rodriguez writes that Holly told him he often hacked into the Internet accounts of celebrities to help with his job sending spam for commercial companies.

"He often used accounts belonging to celebrities because of the high volume of Internet traffic they attracted," Rodriguez writes.

And he says a review of Holly's bank records show he received payments of over \$110,000 between Nov. 2007 and July 2008 from companies that paid him to send spam for them.

The affidavit said Rodriguez found approximately 200 credit card account numbers and related personal information on his computer, and he appears to have used at least some of them to make purchases over the Internet.

FBI spokesman Scott Augenbaum declined to say if Holly would face charges related to hacking Cyrus' e-mail account. The charges Holly currently faces are felonies, while unauthorized access of an e-mail account is a less-serious misdemeanor.

Attorney: Lohan didn't do drugs at rehab

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Lindsay Lohan's attorney insists the 24-year-old actress didn't drink alcohol or do drugs during her 90-day stint at the Betty Ford rehabilitation center.

"I had numerous conversations with Betty Ford counselors and doctors over the course of Lindsay's treatment there and it was never suggested by anyone that she ever drank or used drugs," Shawn Chapman

Khloe Kardashian, Lamar Odom to get own series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Khloe Kardashian and basketball-playing husband Lamar Odom are getting their own reality show.

The eight-episode series, tentatively titled "Khloe & Lamar," will air on E! and begin filming early this year, focusing on the couple and her brother, Rob Kardashian, who is a semi-permanent houseguest, the network said Wednesday.

It will be Kardashian's third reality show on the cable network. She and her family star in "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" and she and sister Kourtney appeared in "Kourtney and Khloe Take Miami."

Kardashian and Odom, who plays for the Los Angeles Lakers, married in September 2009 after dating for a month. The show will also follow Odom both in Los Angeles and on the road with the Lakers, who are seeking their third consecutive NBA cham-

"Khloe and Lamar are such a dynamic couple that we just knew we had to give them their own series," E! executive vice president Lisa Berger said.

"They are funny, dramatic, opinionated, and we intend to capture all this, along with the unvarnished reality of their lives together and apart, since each is constantly followed by their own celebrity spotlight."

Kardashian's mother, Kris Jenner, is an executive producer on the show.



In this Sept. 9, 2009 file photo, Khloe Kardashian and Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Lamar Odom pose together at the premiere of the film "Whiteout" in Los Angeles.

Wednesday following Internet reports claiming Lohan was under the influence during an altercation with a rehab technician last month.

Holley added: "Her discharge letter from the facility is totally consistent with that."

Lohan was released from the Rancho Mirage drug dependency center, about 120 miles (190 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, this week after receiving treatment there since late September in connection with her 3 1/2 year-old drunken driving case. The Beverly Hills judge overseeing Lohan's probation required her to remain at the rehab center until Monday.

Riverside County Sheriff's said in a news release Tuesday that Lohan violated her proba-



In this Oct. 22, 2010 file photo, Lindsay Lohan arrives for a probation violation hearing at Beverly Hills Courthouse in Beverly Hills, Calif.

with battery for the skirmish with Dawn Holland, though tion and wanted her charged Holland is no longer pursuing the judge is Feb. 25.

of pushing Holland after Lohan returned to the rehab center past curfew on Dec. 12 and refused Holland's request to take a Breathalyzer test.

Riverside sheriff's Sgt. Joe Borja said Wednesday he would not comment on the reports that Lohan was under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the incident. John Hall, spokesman for the Riverside County district attorney's office, said Wednesday that his office had not yet received the investigators' findings but expected to later this week.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elden Fox has said Lohan will be jailed if she violates probation. Her next scheduled hearing before

'Twilight,' 'House' top the People's Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Dreamy vampires, a surly doctor and a rapper in "Recovery" are top winners at the People's Choice Awards.

"The Twilight Eclipse," TV's "House M.D." and Eminem each won four awards at Wednesday's ceremony, hosted by Queen Latifah at the Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles.

Fans picked "Twilight" as their favorite overall movie and favorite drama. Stars Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner were their favorite on-screen team, and Stewart also won actress honors.

Johnny Depp was fans' favorite actor, Jackie Chan won for action star, Adam Sandler won for comedic star, and "Toy Story 3" was voted favorite family movie.

"House M.D." was TV's top winner. The show was fans' favorite television drama, and stars Hugh Laurie and Lisa Edelstein were the favorite actor and actress in the drama category. Laurie's character, Gregory House, was named favorite TV doctor.

"Glee" was voted top TV comedy, and star Jane Lynch was the favorite comedy actress. Neil Patrick Harris won



comedy actor honors.

Eminem dominated the music category. He was fans' favorite hip-hop artist and male musician, and his song with Rihanna, "Love the Way You Lie," won favorite song and music video. Katy Perry was a double win-

ner: Favorite female artist and favorite online sensation.

Rihanna, Usher and Taylor Swift were named favorite pop, R&B and country artist, respectively.

Fans chose the winners in all categories.

Betty White calls herself a 'technological spaz'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— Betty White joked that Facebook seemed like a huge waste of time during her wildly successful hosting gig on "Saturday Night Live." Turns out she wasn't kidding.

"That was a line that was written for me, and I would have said it myself, but I didn't know what Facebook was, and I still don't," the actress said Wednesday at the Television Critics Association's winter meeting.

White landed the "SNL" gig thanks to a popular campaign on Facebook.

She admitted she doesn't own a computer, forcing "Hot in Cleveland" co-star Valerie Bertinelli to call White instead of e-mailing her.

"I get a lot of mail, but I can stack those in stacks and throw this stack out without answering, and then I get to this stack," White said. "But if I punched the button and stored something in a computer, I wouldn't sleep at night wondering what was stored in there. I'm a technological spaz."

White turns 89 on Jan. 17, and will be feted at a birthday bash in New York. She's enjoying a career resurgence, with "Hot in Cleveland" set to begin its second season Jan. 19 on TV Land.

"You've had such an overdose of me lately," she said. "I'm trying to cut down. I really am."

At the same time, White finds it difficult to stay home.

"You spend your career thinking if you say no, they'll never ask you again, and if you don't take the job that may be the end of it," she said. "My mother taught me to say no when I was a girl, but that wasn't about show business."

Good grooming is a hairy subject between friends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Just how honest should you be with a friend? My friend "Frannie" did not receive a promotion in her department, and I think I know why—her appearance. The promotion would have required more interaction with clients.

Frannie is bright, hard-working, has Christian ethics, a beautiful, trim figure, a wide smile and dresses well.



But—she wears no makeup, doesn't pluck her huge unibrow and wears sandals that expose her very hairy toes and the hairy tops of her feet.

Many people have commented to me about her hairy feet and face, but I have not had the heart to tell her what they say. She has also been asking me why guys shy away from her.

Do I say nothing, or should I offer helpful advice?

FRANNIE'S FRIEND IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR FRIEND: What you need to ask yourself before raising a sensitive subject like this is: Is it true? Is it helpful? Is it kind? From where I sit, telling Frannie what she needs to hear passes those tests. Because Frannie has been asking why men shy away from her, that's your opening to talk to her about her grooming. Many women have body-hair issues, but there are solutions for it. The poor woman needs the services of a cosmetologist.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I separated more than a year ago, but we have remained friends for the sake of our children. During our marriage, my sister moved in with us. When I moved out, she stayed on to help my husband financially, and also to help with our children.

Yesterday, my husband confirmed that he's now sleeping with my sister. I must see them almost daily and I don't want to make a difficult situation worse. How can I get over the hurt and betrayal I feel toward them—especially my sister? How can I forgive them? Will time really heal this wound?

BETRAYED BY MY SISTER

DEAR BETRAYED: It may help in your healing if you accept that your marriage ended the day you walked out the door, leaving your sister in the role of wife-contributing financially to the household, parenting the children, and I assume, emotionally supporting your husband. Not to have seen this coming was naive. The stronger you become, the easier it will be to forgive them and go on with your life, but getting there may require professional counseling. I'm recommending you start sooner rather than later.

DEAR ABBY: My friends and I were recently discussing supermarket etiquette and hope you can provide some insight. When checking out at the grocery store and a customer is standing behind you ready to unload her basket, is it your responsibility to move the divider bar to the end of your order or should it be the person behind you? Which is more proper?

CONSCIENTIOUS SHOPPER, ERIE, PA.

DEAR CONSCIENTIOUS: The person unloading the basket usually places the bar to ensure that her (or his) groceries are kept separate from the person in front. There are, however, no hard-and-fast rules about it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby-Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 **29** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis















Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



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emy Renner, 40; Nicolas Cage, 47; Katie Couric, 54; Kenny Loggins, 63 Happy Birthday: It's up to you to look out for your own interests and to carry on in whatever

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jer-

way appears to be most beneficial for you. Overspending will be a prime concern. Honesty will play a big role in the outcome of any personal or professional partnership you develop. Stick to facts and refrain from any form of exaggeration. Your numbers are 2, 7, 16, 23, 27, 34, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Communication will be your strong point and must be utilized if you expect to get things

done or to persuade others to help you. Research done now will provide the knowledge you need to let others know that you are fully qualified and responsible. **QQQQ** TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look for

partners who complement what you do or have to offer. Don't limit yourself when you know you need help to do things properly. The choices you make now will have a longlasting effect.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Act professionally in order to get the recommendation you need and want. A partnership will prove to be advantageous but will only develop through talks that show your dedication, talent and

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Acting impulsively will only lead to trouble, not to mention difficulty getting along with someone you need to deal with regularly. A part-

willingness to be a team player.

nership will be in jeopardy if you choose to argue instead of looking for common ground.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your focus should be on entertainment, love and romance and making personal changes that will enhance your appeal. As long as you don't exaggerate, you will attract positive attention, be looked up to, respected and considered for something that can make a difference to your future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be afraid to take on a challenge; you are armed and ready for whatever comes your way. Rely on your strength and courage to help you bring about whatever change is required to set you on the path to victory. •••

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have to talk your way through whatever personal setback you face. Don't let anyone treat you poorly or aggressively. Prepare to make the changes necessary at home to make your life more comfortable and peaceful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trust in your ability and to your ability and talent. A problem with your residence or with a move will leave you feeling a little lost and concerned. Rely on past experience or the advice of someone who has dealt with such issues. ②

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A secret is likely to be revealed that can leave you in a vulnerable or precarious

position. Keep close tabs on what's being said and who's involved in the conversation. Your assumption will be accurate but you must act with diplomacy. OOOO

EUGENIA THE LAST WORD

IN ASTROLOGY





take a position in the spotlight or choose to hide in the background. If you decide not to participate, you will have no leverage if you don't like what develops. Helping others will be a good

way to show your enthusiasm. •••• AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't say or do something that you will be say or do sometiming that you sorry for later. Only you can decide what path to take to follow your dreams, hopes and wishes. Set goals and stick to them. ���

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll overreact or say something you shouldn't. Prepare to do a little damage control if

you want to avoid a setback that can have a lasting effect on an important relationship. Think, strategize and proceed with caution.

Birthday Baby: You are a wonderful storyteller. You are thoughtful, imaginative and unpredictable.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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Wendlerweite **OUELLET**

HOW ITO PLAY: All the words "stot below appear in the prozeet incizon tally verifically, diagonally, ever backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftworf letters spell the Worlderword.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FCD-AD-CIVAL

ACTION

NO. 10-0613 C.A. DLC. S. NOTICE OF Minor Child HEARING

OURDES DELA CRUZ SANCHEZ Petitioner

In The Matter Of

The Adoption Of:

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing January 18, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo. Dated this 28,th day of December, 2010.

> Bernadita A. Sablan Clerk of Court

By: /S/Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS** NORTHERN MARIANA

BENITO S. TAMAN and DOMITILIA T. TAISACAN,

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: That certain tract or parcel of real property situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Lot No. 002 G 286, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 28, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 29th day of December, 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Rondo, Celtics hold on to beat Spurs, 105-103



Manu Ginobli's attempted game-tying shot was blocked and the Boston Celtics hung on for a 105-103 win over the San An-

tonio Spurs in Wednesday's clash of the NBA's top two teams.

Rajon Rondo had 22 assists, 12 points and 10 rebounds for his 11th career triple-double and added six steals.

His final rebound came as time expired. After a timeout, San Antonio had a chance to tie the game. Ginobli worked down the clock and put up a shot that was blocked by Paul Pierce and Rondo pulled down the rebound.

It's the first time this season that the Spurs (29-6), who still have the best record in the NBA, have lost back-to-back games.

Ray Allen scored 31 for Eastern Conference-leading Boston (27-7), but missed a pair of free throws with 8.1 seconds left that gave the Spurs one last shot.

Ginobili had 24 points and eight rebounds for San Antonio.

Hawks 110, Jazz 87

In Salt Lake City, Joe Johnson scored 28 points, making five of seven 3-pointers, to lift Atlanta to victory over Utah.

Jamal Crawford added 26 off the bench for the Hawks, who have won three straight road games.

Deron Williams and Andrei Kirilenko each had 19 points to lead the Jazz, who were without second-leading scorer Paul Millsap because of a bruised hip.

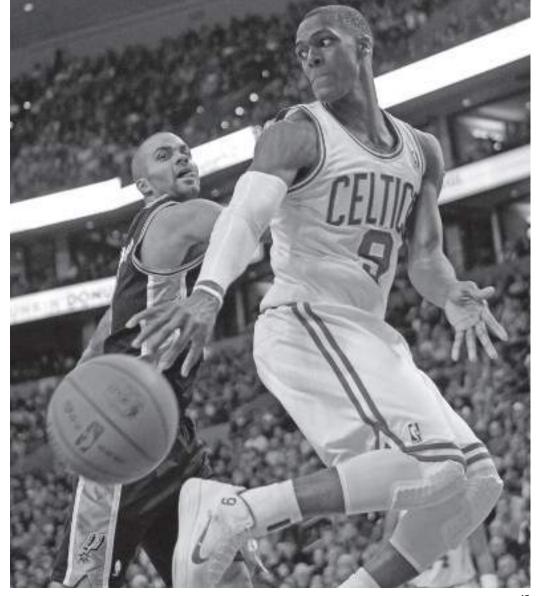
The Hawks hurt the Jazz with 3-pointers, hitting 14 of 25 on the night, including a halfcourt buzzer-beater from Crawford for a 55-41 halftime lead.

Atlanta led 30-17 after one, with the Jazz shooting just 35.3 percent to 52.4 percent for the Hawks.

Lakers 99, Suns 95

In Phoenix, five Los Angeles players reached double figures as the Lakers edged Phoenix.

Kobe Bryant scored 24 points and Andrew Bynum had 14 for



Boston Celtics' Rajon Rondo (9) passes off in front of San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker, of France, in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, in Boston.

er with 90 seconds left after the Suns had got within a point.

Jared Dudley led Phoenix with 21 points, including three of their 11 3-pointers, but the much bigger Lakers dominated the boards 47-31, including 14-5 on the offensive end.

Magic 97, Bucks 87

In Orlando, the hosts held off injury-depleted Milwaukee for a seventh straight victory.

Milwaukee was without three of its five top scorers in guard Brandon Jennings, Carlos Delfino and Drew Gooden.

L.A., Ron Artest sank a 3-point- and 13 rebounds as Orlando Kevin Martin's season-high 45 avenged an 11-point loss at Milwaukee on Dec. 4 in which it played without Howard, Jameer Nelson and J.J. Redick.

The Magic led by as many as 19 before their lead was cut to five with 4:06 remaining. A basket by Howard and 3-pointer by Hedo Turkoglu got the lead back to 10 and helped the Magic secure the win despite shooting just 5 of 22 from beyond the arc.

Corey Maggette led Milwaukee with 21 points.

Trail Blazers 103. Rockets 100

Dwight Howard had 28 points In Houston, Portland overcame

points to beat Houston.

Rudy Fernandez gave the Trail Blazers the lead with less than a minute remaining. Martin missed a shot on the other end and La-Marcus Aldridge grabbed the rebound and extended the lead with his bucket a few seconds later.

Luis Scola missed a shot for Houston and Aldridge was fouled on the rebound. Aldridge hit two free throws with 5 seconds remaining to take his game tally to 27 points. before Kyle Lowry made a 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds left to cut the lead to 102-100.

Andre Miller made a free throw before Courtney Lee's shot at the buzzer bounced off the rim.

Warriors 110, **Hornets 103**

In New Orleans, Monta Ellis scored 29 points as Golden State rallied past New Orleans.

Trailing by 10 after three quarters, the Warriors went on a 27-7 run in the first 7 minutes of the fourth to go ahead 99-89, then hit their free throws late to seal the victory after the Hornets got within two.

Stephen Curry had 21 points for Golden State.

Chris Paul led New Orleans with 24 points, one off his season high, but was scoreless for the first 11 minutes of the fourth quarter.

Nets 96, Bulls 94

In Newark, New Jersey, Sasha Vujacic made the tiebreaking basket with 5.3 seconds left and New Jersey snapped a five-game losing streak by beating Chicago.

With the game tied, the ball was knocked to Vujacic, who put it in for his 13th point. Derrick Rose then missed a long jumper and Chicago's five-game winning streak was over.

Kris Humphries responded to a demotion with a seasonhigh 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Nets.

Rose had 21 points but just one assist for the Bulls.

Clippers 106, Nuggets 93

In Los Angeles, the home team snapped Denver's four-game winning streak.

Eric Gordon scored 28 points, including four 3-pointers, while Blake Griffin had 22 points and 18 rebounds to tie a Clippers franchise record with his 22nd consecutive double-double.

Los Angeles outrebounded the Nuggets 57-43 to halt a four-game losing streak against Denver.

Carmelo Anthony had 31 for Cleveland.

points for the Nuggets, who took their only lead early in the first quarter.

76ers 109, Wizards 97

In Philadelphia, the hosts returned from their longest road trip of the season to beat Washington.

Jrue Holiday and Lou Williams each scored 26 points for the Sixers, who earlier in the season lost twice at Washington in overtime by a combined three points.

Nick Young scored 21 points for the Wizards, who are 0-17 on the road this season.

Bobcats 108, **Timberwolves 105, OT**

In Minneapolis, Charlotte rallied from eight points down in the final 3 minutes to pull out an overtime victory against Minnesota.

D.J. Augustin scored eight points in the final 2:08 of regulation to tie the game and the Bobcats snapped a nine-game road losing streak without injured leading scorers Stephen Jackson and Gerald Wallace.

Tyrus Thomas had 21 points and 11 rebounds to lead Charlotte.

Kevin Love had 35 points and 15 rebounds for the Wolves, who turned the ball over five times in overtime to let another fourth-quarter lead slip away.

Raptors 120, **Cavaliers 105**

In Cleveland, Toronto ended a succession of 11 straight losses in Cleveland.

Andrea Bargnani scored 25 points and Leandro Barbosa added 22 for Toronto, which snapped a three-game skid. The Raptors trailed by 15 after a quarter, but had little trouble coming back against the getting-worse-by-the-day Cavaliers, who have lost eight straight.

Antawn Jamison scored 32

LA Clippers' Griffin to take part in slam dunk contest

NEW YORK (AP)—Blake growing up," Griffin said in Griffin is bringing his ferocious dunks to the slam dunk contest.

rookie will join Milwaukee lot of fun." point guard Brandon Jennings and big men JaVale McGee of Washington and Serge Ibaka of Oklahoma City in next month's event at All-Star weekend, the NBA announced Wednesday.

Griffin's powerful slams have made him a YouTube sensation and the leading candidate for Rookie of the Year honors, and his presence brings a needed boost to what was a lackluster event last year. He will have home-court advantage in the contest at Staples Center on

"I'm excited. It's something I've always watched

Los Angeles. "To be able to have a chance to be in it and The Los Angeles Clippers participate, it's going to be a

Griffin had 22 points and 18 rebounds in Wednesday night's 106-93 victory over Denver to tie a franchise record with his 22nd consecutive double-double. With the contest more than a month away, he said he hadn't given much thought to what dunks he'd unveil.

"I guess we'll find out," Griffin said. "I have no idea. ... I'm not really looking ahead."

Each contender will be matched with a slam dunk coach. Griffin will work with two-time participant Kenny Smith, Jennings with Darryl Dawkins, Ibaka with teammate Kevin Durant and McGee with Chris Webber.

Grizzlies ban gambling on flights after recent altercation

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Griz-Memphis after a fight between Tony Allen and O.J. Mayo on board an airplane during a return trip from Los Angeles.

Team spokesman Dustin Krugel said Wednesday the Grizzlies will allow "no more gambling" on flights. Their next road trip begins Friday night after hosting the Utah Jazz.

The team released a statement early Wednesday morning confirming that Allen and Mayo had a "brief altercation" on the charter flight back to Memphis on Monday from Los Angeles. The Grizzlies spent the night in California after beating the Lakers 104-85 on Sunday.

General manager Chris Walzlies coach Lionel Hollins has lace did not immediately return banned gambling on flights for a message left Wednesday by whether Allen or Mayo will face high 19 points in the win over The Associated Press, but said punishment from the league. in the statement the club considers the matter closed.

The Commercial Appeal first reported the gambling ban on team flights. Hollins told the paper that he treated the incident like a blowup during practice—with a lecture and having both players apologize. He said there will be no further discipline by the team.

"We're in a confined airplane, and things get heated. I'm done with it. No more gambling," Hollins told the newspaper. "I told my guys if they read a book, that would be good. They have to entertain themselves in a different manner.

The NBA has not ruled

"We're monitoring the situation," NBA spokesman Tim Frank wrote in an e-mail to the AP.

According to reports, Mayo owed Allen money following the card game and became increasingly angry toward Allen when asked to settle the debt. The men had to be separated by teammates.

Mayo did not play Tuesday night in the Grizzlies' 110-105 win over Oklahoma City; the Grizzlies said he had bronchitis. The No. 3 pick overall in 2008, Mayo now is coming off the bench and averaging 13.2

points per game. Allen, signed this offseason, scored a seasonthe Thunder.

At least two NBA teams banned gambling on the team plane a year ago after a card game between Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton turned into an argument in the locker room the led to gun play. Arenas brought four guns into the locker room in what he said was an attempt to play a prank on Crittenton—both players are no longer with Washington.

Arenas was suspended 50 games last season for bringing a gun into the locker room, spent two days in jail and time at a halfway house for felony gun possession.

MLB BRIEFS

Source: Red Sox add reliever **Tony Pena Jr.**

BOSTON (AP)—A person familiar with negotiations says the Red Sox have agreed to a minor league contract with right-handed reliever Tony Pena Jr. The person spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the team has not made an announcement. Pena, the son of former Boston catcher Tony Pena, became a pitcher for Kansas City in 2009 after playing shortstop with the Atlanta Braves and the Royals. Last season he was in the San Francisco Giants system where he pitched in 53 games, all in relief, at Double-A Richmond, where he had a 2.35 ERA, and Triple-A Fresno, where his ERA was 6.60.

Brewers finalize \$1.75M deal with RHP Saito

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Brewers have finalized a \$1.75 million, oneyear contract with reliever Takashi Saito. The righthander can earn an additional \$1 million in performance bonuses based on games and \$500,000 for days on the active roster. He was 2-3 with a 2.83 ERA in 56 games for the Atlanta Braves last year and has a 17-13 big league record with a 2.19 ERA in five seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Boston and Atlanta. The 40-year-old from Japan has 84 saves, including 81 with the Dodgers from 2006-08. Saito is expected to become the setup man for closer John Axford.

Izturis finalizes \$1.5M contract to return to Os

BALTIMORE (AP)— Shortstop Cesar Izturis has finalized a \$1.5 million, one-year deal with the Baltimore Orioles. Izturis hit .230 in 150 games with Baltimore last season. In an effort to add punch at the position, the Orioles obtained J.J. Hardy in an offseason trade with the Minnesota Twins, which means Izturis will likely be used as a backup. The 30-yearold Izturis agreed to terms last month, but the contract was contingent upon him passing a physical. The deal includes \$800,000 in performance bonuses based on plate appearances and \$700,000 for starts. Izturis' strength is in the field. His .985 fielding percentage in 2010 was second among AL shortstops, and he ranked fifth in the league in assists and putouts. Izturis has a career batting average of .256. He won a Gold Glove in 2004 and was a NL All-Star in 2005.

Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame



Former Minnesota Twins pitcher Bert Blyleven addresses the media during a news conference in Fort Myers, Fla., Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, after being elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

said. "They cheated themselves

NEW YORK (AP)—After a narrow miss last year, Bert Blyleven told voters they finally got it right by sending him into the Hall of Fame along with Roberto Alomar.

And he took the opportunity to talk about baseball's dark past—the Steroids Era.

All-Star sluggers Rafael Palmeiro, Jeff Bagwell, Mark McGwire and Juan Gonzalez didn't come close in Wednesday's election. No telling if they ever will, either, after Hall voters sent a clear message: The drug cloud isn't going to cover Cooperstown.

"The writers are saying that this was the Steroids Era, like they have done Mark McGwire," Blyleven said after finally making it to the Hall on his 14th try. "They've kind of made their point."

Blyleven was chosen on 79.7 percent—it takes 75 percent approval by the Baseball Writers' Association of America to reach the shrine. The great curveballer won 287 games, threw 60 shutouts and ranks fifth with 3,701 strikeouts. He was down to his next-to-last try on the ballot.

"It's been 14 years of praying and waiting," Blyleven said in a conference call. "And thank the baseball writers of America for, I'm going to say, finally getting it right."

Alomar was picked on 90 percent of the ballots. The 12-time All-Star won a record 10 Gold Gloves at second base, hit .300 and helped the Toronto Blue Jays win titles in 1992-93.

Palmeiro, McGwire, Bagwell and Gonzalez fared poorlv. with BBWAA members reluctant to choose bulky hitters who posted big numbers in the 1990s and 2000s.

"Guys cheated," Blyleven

and their teammates. The game of baseball is to be played clean. I think we went through a Steroid Era and I think it's up to the writers to decide when and who should go in through that era."

A lot of them have already decided.

"I will not vote for any player connected with steroid use, because I believe cheaters shouldn't be rewarded with the sport's highest honor," Susan Slusser of the San Francisco Chronicle said in an e-mail.

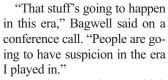
"We are asked to consider character when casting Hall of Fame votes and I don't believe those who used performance-

enhancing substances meet that standard," she said. "They cheated to get ahead, plain and simple, creating an imbalance in the game and a mess for the voters.

they earned as a result, but they won't get my vote."

Bagwell got 41.7 percent in his first year on the ballot. His career stats are among the best for first basemen since World War II—.297 batting average, .408 on-base percentage and .540 slugging percentage. He hit 449 home runs, topped 1,500 RBIs and runs and ran the bases hard. He was Rookie of the Year, NL MVP and a Gold Glove winner.

tive, there were no public allegations against him and he was adamant that he never used illegal drugs. Still, many voters and fans aren't sure yet how to assess the huge numbers put up by the game's top hitters.



People are going to think what they want to think. If they don't think that anybody was good in this era, then that's fine. Like I said, I'm one of the first ones to come up in that era. I'm OK with it," he said. "There's nothing I can do about it."

Palmeiro was listed on just 64 of a record 581 ballots (11 percent) in his first try despite lofty career numbers—he is joined by Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Eddie Murray as the lone players with more than 3,000 hits and 500

home runs.

But Palmeiro failed a drug test and was suspended by Major League Baseball in 2005. The penalty came a few months after he wagged his

finger at members of Congress and told them: "I have never used steroids. Period."

Former Rep. Tom Davis was the chairman of the House committee that held the March 17, 2005, hearing on steroids in baseball at which Palmeiro made that statement and McGwire refused to "talk about the past."

"The baseball writers are weighing the steroid thing. It's still got to play out, but at this point they seem to have factored that it into their decisions," Davis said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

The other leader of that committee, Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., declined to comment through a spokesperson.

"Henry and I did our job. We tried to clean the game up a little



conference, Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, in Toronto, after he was elected into baseball's Hall of Fame.

bit and tried to help young people who were starting to use that stuff," Davis said. "The rest of it will be up to history."

Palmeiro recently reiterated the anabolic steroid that caused his positive test came in a vitamin vial given to him by teammate Miguel Tejada.

McGwire got 19.8 percent, a drop from 23.7 percent last year. This was his fifth time on the ballot, and first since the former home run champion admitted he took steroids and human growth hormone.

Juan Gonzalez, a two-time AL MVP implicated by Jose Canseco in steroids use, received 30 votes, just above the 5 percent threshold for remaining on the ballot next year.

Alomar and Blyleven will be ioined by Pat Gillick at the induction ceremonies July 24 in Cooperstown. The longtime executive was picked last month by the Veterans Committee. Gillick helped earn his place with a trade that brought Alomar to

Smart, graceful and acrobatic on the field, Alomar also was guilty in one of the game's most boorish moments. He spit on umpire John Hirschbeck during a dispute in 1996 and was suspended. They later made up and Hirschbeck supported Alomar's bid for the Hall.

"I regret every bit of it. I apologized many times to John," he said. "I feel good I've had a good relationship with John."

Said Hirschbeck: very, very happy for him. It's overdue."

"I'm not going to comment on why he didn't get elected the first time. But I forgave him. Maybe the rest of the world has," Hirschbeck told The Associated Press by telephone.

Alomar drew 73.7 percent last year in his first try on the ballot. Blyleven had come even closer, missing by just five votes while getting 74.2 percent.

"Robbie was an incredible player. He was a pleasure to watch play the game and I am not saying that because he was my brother. He had all the tools and put them all into play," former Cleveland teammate Sandy Alomar Jr. said.

Alomar got his first major league hit off Nolan Ryan in 1988. Ryan was the last pure starting pitcher elected to the Hall by the BBWAA in 1999.

Blyleven, now 59, pitched against Alomar and his father, Sandy Alomar.

It was quite a climb for Blyleven, who helped pitch Pittsburgh to the 1979 title and Minnesota to the 1987 crown. Many years ago, he drew barely over 14 percent in the BBWAA voting.

Blyleven's career stats have gotten a boost in recent years by sabermetricians who have new ways to evaluate baseball numbers.

"I could not be happier if it was my own son," Twins Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew said. "I played in the first game Bert pitched for the Minnesota Twins in 1970. ... I wish it wouldn't have taken so long but now that he is in, it's wonderful.'

Barry Larkin and Tim Raines showed gains in this year's voting. Pete Rose received three write-in votes.

Larkin (62 percent) and Jack Morris (54 percent) could get more consideration next year. when Bernie Williams is the top first-year candidate.

"My words to Jack are, 'Don't give up," Blyleven said.



They can enjoy the big contracts

Bagwell never tested posi-

Owner: Time to let Vince Young go



Tenn. (AP)—Ti-

tans owner Bud Ad-

ams says it's time to let Vince Young go and for the franchise to find its next quarterback.

The Titans released a statement Wednesday night in which Adams said Young won't be on the team's roster next season, but he's still evaluating the coaching staff.

"We have two critical decisions to make, the direction of the coaching staff and the future at the quarterback position. They are separate issues to me and will be dealt with separately," Adams said.

Adams is the owner who wanted Young drafted No. 3 overall out of Texas in 2006 and said on draft day that "VY is my guy." But with his general manager and senior executive vice president traveling to Houston to meet with Adams on Monday, the 88-year-old owner decided Young no longer is the quarterback for his franchise.

Young is 30-17 in his five NFL seasons, but only 13-14 against teams finishing a season at .500 or better. He's also battled questions over his work ethic, leadership and injuries. He suffered a season-ending thumb injury on his right hand Nov. 21, tossed his shoulder pads into the stands and told off coach Jeff Fisher in front of the locker room before

told The Tennessean that he was a little bitter but thanked Adams and Fisher for giving him a chance. He also said he had nothing against Fisher, though he never felt like the coach trusted him or that he was his guy.

"Everything was my fault. But that's over now. I wish coach Fisher and Bud Adams and all my coaches and teammates best," Young said.

Young later tweeted his thanks to Nashville and Titans' fans.

"I look forward to a new beginning and bringing my talents to a new team," Young wrote.

The quarterback is due a roster bonus of \$4.25 million in March and an \$8.5 million salary for 2011.

Adams said he informed general manager Mike Reinfeldt to start identifying the team's next quarterback and thanked Young for his contributions to the team.

"These kinds of decisions are never easy and this is especially true for this particular player. I certainly wish that things would have worked out better, but I think it is best for the franchise that we move on at this point," Adams said.

Reinfeldt informed agent Tom Condon that Young isn't in the team's plans for the future. League rules keep Young from being released until Feb.

7, and he cannot be traded until The 27-year-old quarterback the first day of the league year - an uncertain date because of the labor unrest. Reinfeldt says Young is welcome to rehab his season-ending thumb injury at the team facility.

The news caught Young's teammates by surprise, even though they had been asked for the past couple weeks whether they thought both Young and Fisher could work together again.

"That's crazy," running back Chris Johnson told ESPN. "That's something I would have never expected. When you looked at his on-field play, he produced. He produced a lot of wins."

Young came in as the successor to Steve McNair. He started off strong, being selected The Associated Press NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year in 2006, and he helped the Titans go 10-6 with a wild-card playoff spot in 2007.

But he had an injury in the 2008 opener and Fisher wound up calling police when Young's mother worried about him speeding off a day later from his home in his Mercedes.

Veteran Kerry Collins remained the starter as the Titans opened 10-0 and earned the AFC's No. 1 seed that season.

But Young came off the bench under Adams' orders after the Titans started 0-6 in 2009, and the quarterback helped them win eight of their final 10 games. He started eight of nine games in 2010 but

couldn't finish three games because of injuries. He threw for 10 touchdowns with only three interceptions and a career-best 98.6 passer rating as he was 93 of 156 for 1,255 yards.

Since being placed on injured reserve on Nov. 23, Young was seen in the team's locker room only once on Dec. 17, and he was on the sideline during the third quarter of the Titans' win over Houston on Dec. 19 before leaving the field early in the fourth quarter.

Young didn't show up Monday for the team's final meeting of the regular season. Asked about Young's absence, Fisher said to ask the quarterback.

Adams also said in his statement that he informed Fisher he still is evaluating the coaching staff.

"I am hoping to make a decision soon," Adams said.

Fisher could not be reached for comment Wednesday night.

He is the NFL's longesttenured coach with his current team, having just finished his 16th full season and coached his 273rd game with the Titans. Tennessee started this season with high expectations and was atop the AFC South at 5-2 before losing eight of the final nine games to finish 6-10.

Fisher is under contract for 2011 at a tab of \$6.5 million and the Titans will pick eighth overall in the draft.

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Elway rejoins Denver Broncos as football czar ENGLEWOOD, Colo. about this job, but I cannot

(AP)—Hall of Famer John Elway is embarking on another comeback.

The beloved quarterback who led the Broncos to five Super Bowl appearances and backto-back championships before retiring in 1999 returned to the team's Dove Valley headquarters Wednesday to begin restoring the franchise's tarnished image and bringing back its winning ways.

Team owner Pat Bowlen said he expects his new chief football executive to lead the Broncos to more Super Bowls and joked this time, Elway can tell him: "This one's for Pat!"

"I can't think of a better job and a better guy to do that job than John Elway, and I look forward to great things in the future," said Bowlen, who famously declared, "This one's for John!" following the Broncos' upset of the Green Bay Packers in the 1997 Super Bowl.

"I think John will return this team to a very high level of competitiveness," Bowlen said. "I think we'll win some more Super Bowls.'

Elway, who retired with an NFL-record 47 comeback drives, said he was ready for this enormous challenge.

"I do not know everything

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wait to learn as much as I can about the job," he said. "I am thrilled to be back with the Broncos, I am thrilled to be back in football. I get on the football field and it makes my heart pump."

Elway's first task is leading the search for a new coach to replace Josh McDaniels, whose 22-month misadventure left the Broncos embarrassed and in need of a major makeover.

"Why am I here? I love the Broncos," Elway said. "I understand what the Broncos are all about. They are about the integrity, about the winning and about the things that you do and how you handle yourself."

Elway has interviews set up with three coaching candidates so far and hopes to talk Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh into applying, too.

He will meet with Falcons offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey in Atlanta on Friday night, then fly back to Denver to interview New York Giants defensive coordinator Perry Fewell and Broncos interim head coach Eric Studesville on Sunday.

Studesville went 1-3 after being promoted from running backs coach upon McDaniels' Dec. 6 ouster.

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<u>OBLIGATIONS!</u>

Who-Oah! enters semis of Bud Cup 8-ball league

walter sutherland@saipantribune.com REPORTER



The semifinals cast t h e Saipan Billiard Associa-

tion Open 8-Ball League Budweiser Cup are all set after last Tuesday's matches.

Second-ranked team Who-Oah! pulled off an upset over division leader Fotten Palau of USSP in five games at home at D'Pirates Bar & Grill to advance to the Obyan division Bud Cup semifinals on Tuesday.

Who-Oah! took both doubles matches via tiebreaker to gain an early advantage and went on to sweep two of the first three singles matches for the victory, 4-1.

Fourth-ranked Toro-Key-Ree held on to knock off thirdseated Shark Attack, 4-3, in a back-and-forth match at VFW and stay alive in the Bud Cup

Shark Attack took the first doubles match in two racks, but Toro-Key-Ree answered





D'Pirates Bar and Grill's Team Who-Oah!, right, and VFW's Toro-Key-Ree both pulled off upsets in last Tuesday's SBA Open 8-Ball League Budweiser Cup playoffs to arrange their semis duel in the Obvan division.

and swept the final doubles run alive. pairing. Then Toro-Key-Ree swept the first two singles matches before giving up a pair of singles losses, which knotted up the score at 3-all with one singles match to go. Toro-Key-Ree's got it done in the clutch to sweep the match

Who-Oah! and Toro-Key-Ree will meet in the semis at VFW on Tuesday, while the sixth-ranked USSP Turtles host the fifth-seated Pirates. Winners of these two matches move on to compete for the Bud Cup on Jan. 18. By rule, the lowerranked team always assumes

home field advantage.

In the Agingan division play at USSP, the IT&E Incredibles triumphed over their sister team, IT&E Voyagers, 4-1, in a Bud Cup tiebreaker match. These teams finished out the regular season with the same record (83-43), therefore a tiebreaker match was necessary to de-

termine each team's Bud Cup position in the playoffs. The Incredibles lost the first singles match via tiebreaker, but recovered and took the next four in a row, two by tiebreaker, for the the victory.

With the tiebreaker results in place, the Incredibles will host the top-seeded Docomo Hus-

Darag fired seven markers

in the fourth canto, including two pressure packed free

throws, and his six other team-

mates also connected at least

On defense, the Dolphins

limited the Rays to only one

field goal and two free throws in

the first half of the fourth period.

Nicko Salem scored Southern's

first field goal, while Cadiang

and Tudela had one each later in

DOLPHINS

Southern's gunners.

one basket each.

the final canto.

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tlers of Utopia Bar on Tuesday at Buddies' Bar & Grill, while the fourth-ranked Home Boyz welcome the Voyagers to Jonny's in the other semis game. Like the Obvan division format, the winners of these matches move on to the finals on Jan. 18 with the lower-ranked teams getting the home field advantage.

MINOR

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According to Minor's mother, Joy, her daughter was really frustrated with the cancellation. The older Minor said Thea was really looking forward to the match despite the fatigue she felt last Wednesday. The CNMI junior netter played four matches last Wednesday, resting for only about 20 minutes after each game.

Besides competing in the U18

The entrance fee is \$20 per

player or \$15 for NMIVA mem-

bers. All entrants will receive a

tournament t-shirt, compete in

at least four games in pool play,

have complimentary refresh-

ments, and enjoy competitive

camaraderie during the event.

Proceeds of the tournament will

benefit the NMIVA's youth de-

If players are under the age

of 18, they must have permis-

sion from a parent or guardian

to participate. All participants

20 SQUADS

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age group, the 15-year-old CNMI netter also played in the U16 singles. She won her first game in the main draw before losing in the round of 16 and dropping to the consolation bracket.

and keep his team's playoff

In the consolation round, she prevailed against Jade Kay, 6-2, 6-0, Caitlyn Price, 6-0, 7-5. She was scheduled to face Jade Heffer in the quarterfinals of the consolation draw, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

Pending results of Minor's match over Heffer, the CNMI

must fill out the registration and

waiver forms. For early sign up,

visit www.nmivolleyball.org to

Prizes up for grabs include

\$100 in Shell Gas fuel certifi-

cates, brunch and water-park

passes from Pacific Islands

Club, Super-10 passes from

Gold's Gym, water sports cer-

tificates from BSEA Sunsports,

communications products from

IT&E, dining certificates from

Tony Roma's and Truong's,

beach chairs from Triple J Mo-

tors, online discount coupons

from PlasticClothing.com of San

NMIFA would like to thank

Diego, California and more.

submit/print your own copy.

had played six singles matches in Shepparton and had posted a 4-2 record. So far, she had won eight sets and lost four and tallied a 64-42 record (games won/ games lost) for a winning average of 60.4. In the doubles, Minor and Korinihona won 13 games and dropped only three.

Next up for the CNMI bet will be the 2011 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales.

However, Minor will take a one-day rest first before debut-

Triple J Super Fresh Market for

donating water, bananas and

Gatorade and Mili Saiki and her

Saipan International School stu-

dents, who will be on hand serv-

The students are raising funds

for their upcoming class trip to

Peru this summer. They will be

making food runs for tips and

players are encouraged to sup-

Last year, Randy Steele and

Heather Kennedy finished on

top of their pool and went un-

defeated in the playoffs to top

a 24-team field. The first-time

duo won the \$200 champion-

ship purse after downing Quin-

ing up breakfast burritos.

port their efforts.

ing against Bronwyn Plowman of Albury in the girls U16 singles competition.

After the tournament in New South Wales, Minor will head back to Victoria for her last tournament—the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga-which will run from Jan. 13 to 16.

From Victoria, the CNMI netter will return to Melbourne to watch a few games in the 2011 Australian Open. She is expected to return to Saipan on Jan. 23.

cy Johnson and Emily Matson,

The winners also won the responsibility of organizing this year's event.

'We are really grateful that Randy and Heather honored the tradition of this tournament where the winners organize the following year's event. This tournament has always been a lot of fun and is a great way to kick off the 2011 season," NMI-VA's Laurie Peterka said.

For more information contact, Randy Steele at rsteele@ triplejsaipan.com. or Kennedy at heatherinsaipan@yahoo.com or visit www.nmivolleyball.org.

17-15, in the finals.

MHS players also tallied dou-

Aulerio paced the Dolphins

with 20 points, while three other

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	• • •	_		
Boston	27	7	.794	_
New York	20	14	.588	7
Philadelphia	14	21	.400	13 1/2
Toronto	12	23	.343	15 1/2
New Jersey	10	25	.286	17 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	23	11	.676	_
Indiana	14	18	.438	8
Milwaukee	13	20	.394	9 1/2
Detroit	11	24	.314	12 1/2
Cleveland	8	27	.229	15 1/2

Southwest Phaision					
San Antonio	29	6	.829	_	
Dallas	26	8	.765	2 1/	
New Orleans	21	15	.583	8 1/	

ble figures. Darag had 16 and Ezra Caro and team captain Ed Manalili chipped in 13 and 10, respectively. Cadiang led all scorers with

his 23 points, but was held to a pair of charities and a triple in the payoff period. Tudela finished with 16, but had only two points in the fourth canto. Tristan Ecalnea had seven, but was limited to only one free throw in the homestretch.

MHS 74 – Aulerio 20, Darag 16, Manalili 10, Lacsina 5, Ichihara 5, Barbo 3, Sarmiento 2.

SSHS 69 – Cadiang 23, Tudela 16, Ecalnea 7, Jung 4, Ngeskebei 4, Casto 4, Sula 2, Salem 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-23, 31-40, 50-57, 74-69.

NBA STANDINGS

Atlantic Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Boston	27	7	.794	_			
New York	20	14	.588	7			
Philadelphia	14	21	.400	13 1/2			
Toronto	12	23	.343	15 1/2			
New Jersey	10	25	.286	17 1/2			

Southeast Division

Miami	28	9	.757	_
Orlando	23	12	.657	4
Atlanta	24	14	.632	4 1/2
Charlotte	12	21	.364	14
Washington	8	25	.242	18

Chicago	23	11	.676	_
Indiana	14	18	.438	8
Milwaukee	13	20	.394	9 1/2
Detroit	11	24	.314	12 1/2
Cleveland	8	27	.229	15 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

Southwest Division				
San Antonio	29	6	.829	_
Dallas	26	8	.765	2 1/2
New Orleans	21	15	.583	8 1/2

Memphis **Northwest Division** Oklahoma City 23 13 14 Portland 19 17 .528 27 **Pacific Division** L.A. Lakers 25 11 .694

Yesterday's Games

14 19

21

24

.424

.400

.314

10 1/2

13 1/2

Phoenix

Golden State 14

L.A. Clippers 11

Sacramento

Toronto 120, Cleveland 105 New Jersey 96, Chicago 94 Orlando 97, Milwaukee 87 Philadelphia 109, Washington 97 Boston 105, San Antonio 103 Charlotte 108, Minnesota 105, OT Golden State 110, New Orleans 103 Portland 103, Houston 100 Atlanta 110, Utah 87 L.A. Clippers 106, Denver 93 L.A. Lakers 99. Phoenix 95

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

23 VIE

velopment fund.

From Page 36

the No. 1 finisher will drew a bye and wait for the winner of the No. 2 and 3 pairing for the championship game. In the championship, if the No. 1 player wins Game 1, he gets to take the title. If he loses, a winnertake-all Game 2 will be played.

Queen and Prince/ Princess of the Lanes Jan. 9

The Budweiser Queen of the

Lanes and Fiji Water Prince/ Princess of the Lanes final rolloffs will both take place on Jan. 9, also at SBC.

In the Oueen of the Lanes, female keglers who joined at least four monthly tournaments are qualified in the tournament.

Sixteen female bowlers made the list, including 2009 champion Ron Cal. Completing the cast were Diane Chong, Lilia Gutierrez, Carol McKenzie, Cora Muna, Gloria Omechelang, Janette Regaspi,

Mel Regis, Gina and Tess Sablan, Myrna Santos, Elena Soll, Lala Taitano, Yolanda Villavicencio, Linda Yarobwemal, and Gigi Zapanta.

The 16 lady keglers will bowl in eight games to determine the Top 3 placers who will advance to the stepladder finals.

In the Fiji Water Prince/Princess, those who competed in at least three monthly tournaments are in for the season-finale roll-offs. The list includes M.J. Aldan, Ryan Batac, Gus Demapan, Nikko Guitierrez, Donald Hockett, Marcel and Marion McKenzie, Toby and Troy Verdaguer, and Leeanne Yarobwemal. Youth bowlers will bowl only

ishers also marching into the stepladder finals. Registration fees for the King of the Lanes is \$45, \$35 for Oueen of the Lanes, and \$20 for

in six games with the Top 3 fin-

Prince/Princess. For more information, contact Ross Zapanta or Gigi Zapanta at 288-5627 or via email at zapanta@pticom.com.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 **35**

Tsunami Saipan Heptathlon Winners



Kai Staal is all smiles after receiving his silver medal in the boys' 13-and-above age group.



Kensuke Kimura, left, and Marvin Lee share the third place honors in the boys' 13-and-above age group.



Angel De Jesus makes it to the podium after placing third in the girls 11 to 12 age group.



Winners in the 2010 Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center Pentathlon Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool wait for the awards ceremony.



Boys U18 gold medalist Lukas Kangis is congratulated by Northern Marianas Swimming Federation's John Hirsh, while second placer Ryuto Yanai looks on.



Medalists wait for their turn at the podium.



Winners check on the medals, while Miku Tammy makes it to the podium after receiving her gold medal in the girls U18 age group.



Angel Marie Tan poses with her gold medal in the girls 11 to 12 age group.



Kento Akimaru at the gold medal podium after topping the boys 9 to 10 age group.



Hiroto Yanai with his silver medal in the boys 9 to 10 age group poses at the podium.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE





hea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day

Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Oceania Touring Team member Amanda Korinihona of the Solomon Islands in the doubles event and together they swept D'Arcy Curtis-McDonald and Eloise Thompson in the finals last Wednesday at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club in Shep-

> The Minor-Korinihona tandem was on fire in the opening set en route to a 6-0 win against Shepparton's Curtis-McDonald and Melbourne's Thompson. In the second set, Minor and Korinihona picked

up where they left off, nailing a 6-4 triumph.

The doubles win was a morale-boosting one for Minor, as she failed to advance to the U18 singles finals earlier. Minor finished second in Group 2 of the U18 singles and was scheduled to face Group 1 top placer Georgina Jupp of Melbourne. However, organizers decided to scrap the semis matches and instead pitted the No. 1 finishers in Group 1 and 2 for the U18 singles crown. Jupp was set to battle the U18 singles crown against Group 2 first placer

See MINOR on Page 34

Dolphins beat Rays in varsity game | 23 vie for King of the Lanes title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Marianas High School pulled off a come-from-behind win over Saipan Southern High School, 74-69, during their varsity division game in the 2010-2011

Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Falling behind by as much as 11 points in the first quarter, the Dolphins held the Manta Rays to three field goals in the fourth period en route to a five-point win. The victory allowed MHS to sweep Southern in the opening day of the league, as the Dolphins also eked out a close win over the Rays in the junior varsity division, 35-33.

The Rays started strong behind the seven points of Melvin Cadiang to take a 23-14 advantage at the end of the first period. Southern walked away with fastbreak layups in the opening quarter, as the Dolphins struggled on defense.

Southern kept the nine-point lead at the break. 40-31, with Cadiang adding four more points and the Rays drawing at least two field goals each from two other players.

Then in the second half, MHS opened the third quarter with back-to-back treys, one each from Brandon Aulerio and John Darag to start a short rally.

However, Southern kept its composure, as Jimmy Tudela and Cadiang saved the Rays in the third quarter, combining for all of the team's 17 points. Tudela, who was held to four points in the first half, sizzled for 10 markers in the third canto, keeping Southern in the lead, 57-50, entering the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The MHS Dolphins' Ryan Ichihara loses his balance, as he pulls up for a shot and draws a foul from a Saipan Southern High School defender during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The Dolphins won, 74-69.

The Dolphins made one final push for a comeback in the fourth quarter and were successful, as their offense clicked and their defense neutralized

See DOLPHINS on Page 34

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Defending titlist Percy Omechelang leads 23 qualifiers for the 2010 Saipan Bowling

Association-Budweiser King of the Lane championship competition that will be held on Jan. 16 at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Omechelang won the 2009 roll-off finale for his first King of the Lanes crown after beating Alex Castro in two games in the finals, 384-361. Omechelang will be defending his King of the Lanes title against Castro, Ben Aizon, Raymond Angeles, Edward Baluyan, Ronald Batac, Efren Cacdac, Alex Castro, Roger De Guzman, Raul Dumapit, Jared and Nick Gutierrenz, John Jimeno, Richard Leong, Simon Manacop, Rusty Musca, Percy Omechelang, Paul Pangelinan, Joe Sto. Domingo, Robert Talavera, Lito Teodoro, Tony Yarobwemal, and sibling Ruselle, Raymond, and Raphael Zapanta.

In the past, SBA's season-ending roll-offs feature the Top 36 players in the Bowlers Ranking System. However, the ranking

system will not be in effect for he 2010 season and instead keglers who competed in at least six monthly roll-offs are given slots in the final tournament.

Qualifiers will then compete in the nine-game roll-off, starting at 1pm for the Top 3 spots in the stepladder finals. In the finals,

See 23 VIE on Page 34



Percy Omechelang, seen here posing for a photo after ruling the 2010 Budweiser King of the Lanes tournament, will defend his title on Jan. 16.

20 squads confirmed for grass v'ball tournament



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Randy Steele, seen here serving in the reverse grass volleyball tournament last year, is organizing the 2011 edition of the event with teammate Heather Kennedy.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND



Twenty teams are confirmed to compete in the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's 4th Annual

Reverse Grass Volleyball Championships that tips off this Saturday at the Navy Hill Field.

The co-ed format tournament calls for teams to bring their own partner. Games will incorporate pool play in the morning and only the Top 16 teams advance to the double-elimination playoffs later that afternoon.

This unique event is played in nets set at women's height, and jump serves, blocks, and hitting from inside the 10-foot line by male players are prohibited. However, leaving the ground from behind the 10-foot line and landing inside is allowed.

Pool play games will be played to 15 with a cap of 21. The semifinals and finals matches will be scored to 21 with a cap of 25. Depending on the number of teams entered, tournament directors reserve the right to adjust game scoring to finish all of the games on three available courts.

Registration will take place courtside at 8:30am and games begin at 9am. A maximum of 25 teams will be accepted in the competition.

See 20 SQUADS on Page 34